

Ephesians: “We have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ!”

#11 in series “Words of God to You”

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1. Author – “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God...” [1:1a]
 - Modern scholarship tends to doubt Paul’s authorship.
 - Church history never doubted.
2. Date – 60-64 A.D., probably during Paul’s first Roman imprisonment [cf. Eph. 3:1, 4:1; Acts 28:30]
3. Destination – “To the saints who are in Ephesus...” [1:1b]
 - Ephesus was a leading city in the Roman Empire and the main city in Asia Minor.
 - Paul’s contact with Ephesus
 - Brief visit in 52 A.D. [Acts 18:9-19-21]
 - Paul returned in 53 A.D. on his 3rd missionary journey and stayed 2-3 years [Acts 19]
 - Later in 57 A.D., while in Miletus, Paul called the Ephesian elders to him for a final, tearful goodbye [Acts 20:17-38]
4. Purpose: To restore the “first love” of the Ephesian believers. [cf. Revelation 2:1-4]
 - Paul uses the term “love” 107 times in his 13 letters, 19 of those times in Ephesians!
 - Ephesians is “the most concise doctrinal and practical treatment of the story of God’s love for humanity in Jesus Christ and His church in the entire Bible.”
5. Outline of Ephesians
 - God’s loving, saving action toward us in Christ and His church [Ephesians 1-3]
 - 1:3-14 – The Trinity acts in concert to save the world!
 - 1:15-23 – Paul prays for wisdom for believers to see God’s work in Christ.
 - 2:1-22 – Christ’s work on the cross reconciles us to God AND to one another!
 - 3:1-13 – The “mystery” of the church – the cosmic display of God’s glory!
 - 3:14-21 – The love of Christ – the foundation of it all!
 - Our loving response of obedience [Ephesians 4-6]
 - 4:1-16 – New calling - live for Christ in and through His church!
 - 4:17-5:21 – New person - live out your new identity in Christ!
 - 5:22-6:9 – New relationships - Live out the love of Christ in family and personal life!
 - 6:10-20 – New battle – live for Christ, fighting the enemy in the power of Christ!