

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 05 Sep Eph 1:1-14 **God's Plan is Eternal**
- 2) 12 Sep Eph 1:15-23 God's Plan Involves Power
- 3) 19 Sept Eph 2:1-10 God's Power Changes People
- 4) 26 Sep Eph 2:11-22 God's Power Changes Relationships
- 5) 03 Oct Eph 3:1-13 God's Power Comes by Grace
- 6) 10 Oct Eph 3:14-21 God's Power Provides Strength
- 7) 17 Oct Eph 4:1-16 Being in Step
- 8) 24 Oct Eph 4:17-32 Being Different
- 9) 31 Oct Eph 5:1-14 Being Pure
- 10) 07 Nov Eph 5:15-21 Being Careful
- 11) 14 Nov Eph 5:22-33 Being Married
- 12) 21 Nov Eph 6:1-9 Being Respectful
- 13) 28 Nov Eph 6:10-24 Being Prepared

NEXT WEEK: Ephesians 1:15-23. We will discuss God's "surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe"

INTRODUCTION

- Ephesians is refreshing since Paul does not deal with any sin issues but writes to expand the knowledge of his readers with the dimensions of God's eternal purpose for His church
- Paul may have written this letter about the same time as Colossians while he was in prison in Rome (~60 A.D.)
- Paul started the Ephesian church on his 2nd missionary journey with Silas. He left Aquila and Priscilla to carry on the work
- On Paul's 3rd missionary trip he stayed at Ephesus for 3 years
- Yet, with all this fine attention by a preeminent Apostle the Ephesians would be reprimanded for leaving their first love
 - ♦ Every church is always one generation away from Apostasy

Passage	Comments
Eph 1:1-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These 14 verses actually are only 2 sentences in the Greek
vv 1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick Intro of Paul's credentials (an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God) • "To the saints who are at Ephesus..." – "...at Ephesus" not in 3 early mss giving a hint this may have been a circular letter
vv3-14	<p>God Chooses, Predestines, & Seals Us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. "Blessed with every spiritual blessing" = Pardon, peace, redemption, adoption, predestined, the earnest of the Spirit, etc. • v4. We were CHOSEN before the world was created to be holy and blameless – WOW! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Does this mean others were chosen to go to Hell? NO! If so, they would have an excuse, but Romans 1:19-20 says those who go to Hell are without excuse because God clearly made Himself evident to them • v5. We were PREDESTINED to adoption. God's sovereignty is beyond our comprehension • v6-8. The Gospel in a few words – Redeemed and forgiven by the blood of Christ – and God was not stingy but He "lavished" His grace on us • v9-12. God told us the MYSTERY of His will – We are in it – thanks to Jesus Christ - PREDESTINED according to His purpose! • v13-14. Once we accepted Christ (believed by faith) we were then SEALED by the Holy Spirit (aorist or past tense – it's a done deal, cannot be undone), and He remains our pledge

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:

- God's sovereignty is tough to comprehend and articulate, but He is able to chose, predestine, and seal us without violating our will. Those who go to Hell don't want to be with God.

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