



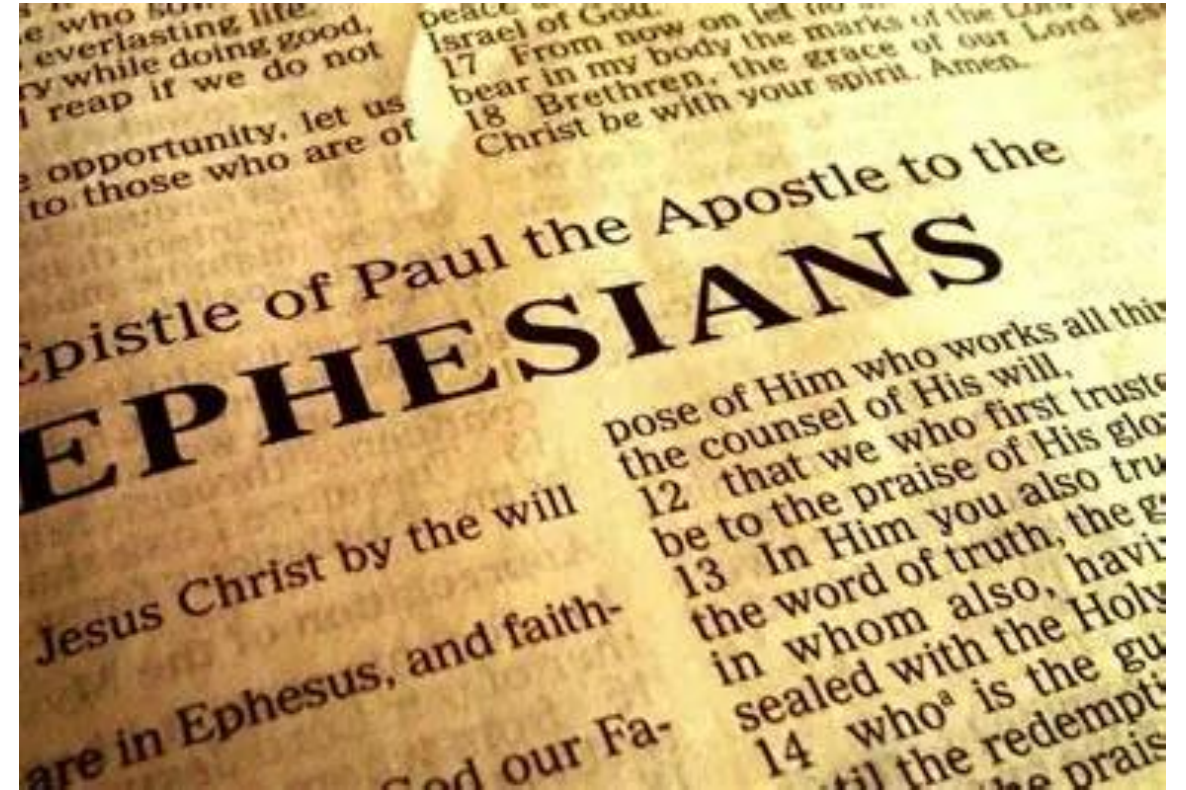
# The WORD Series

Part 2 - Heavenly

# Introduction

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- We will begin our journey in the Book to Ephesus. This was a major port on the West Coast of Asia Minor (Modern day Izmir in Turkey)
- This city was where Paul stayed for two full years and developed a strong and deep relationship with the emerging Christian community.
- Ephesus was one of the seven Churches addressed by our Lord Jesus in Revelation.
- It was one of the letters Paul wrote from prison.



# Introduction...

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- Story of man who walked with his wife up a mountain to enjoy the glorious view.
- Walked for over an hour up the mountain but were not getting much elevation.
- Finally, his wife asks him if they were going in the right direction.
- So, in frustration he turns to tell her after the fifteenth ask that they were!
- As he turns round to tell her everything is okay, he sees the Mountain behind them!!



# Introduction...

- Some Christians have been walking in the wrong direction for years.
- That's why we have no elevation from which to see our Heavenly blessings.
- The sequence of Paul's letter and that of the Holy Spirit is that we SIT first in the revelation of what Christ has done.
- Then we can start Walking!!
- That will help us to Stand and Withstand the temptations, challenges and pressures of Life!!



# Paul...

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- *Ephesians 1:1-2 (NKJV) 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*
- By the Will of God, not the ordination of men. When God calls a Man, he does not need men's endorsement
- Paul was laid hands upon by Ananias and then the brethren of Antioch.
- It becomes obvious by the FRUIT not the letters behind your name or a title!



# Saints...

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- *To the Saints who are in Ephesus...*
- This is not a collection of denominations and church names!!
- They are the true Believers whose names are in the Lamb's Book of Life
- Faithful in Christ!!
- Trustworthy, faithful
  - of persons who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties
  - one who kept his plighted faith, worthy of trust and can be relied on
- True Disciples are dependable, weight bearers of the things of God!!.



# Grace...

- *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...*
- Grace is the whole premise of the New Covenant. - that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness:
- Grace of speech good will, loving-kindness, favour of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting His holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ,
- keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues
- In this greeting, it refers to both the finished virtue of God exerted at the Cross as well as the ongoing generosity of life that flows from God continually towards the Believer.
- May the Grace of God be with you..  
1 Corinthians 16:23. Phil 4:23, Gal 6;18



# Grace...

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- *“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” 2 Corinthians 12:9*
- **Meaning:** God’s grace is equated with **power**, especially in our weakness. It’s not just forgiveness, but enablement or empowerment.
- *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions**, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.” Titus 2:11-13*
- **Meaning:** Grace **teaches and enables** us to live righteously—it empowers transformation, not just forgiveness.
- The Grace of God is part of the force of life that flows from God to the Believer; enabling, empowering and transforming.





# Peace...

- Peace
- Definitions...
- *security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous)*
- *of the Messiah's peace*
- *the way that leads to peace (salvation)*
- *of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is*
- The Peace of God is part of the life that flows from God to us.
- It is supernatural and therefore not subject to the natural elements of this life.



# Peace...

- *My Peace I give to You... not as the World gives*
- *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Jn 14:27*
- *Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord [be] with you all. 2 Thss 3:16*
- God's peace is a force that strengthens and fortifies the Believer against the dark forces in the world.
- it is like a 'force field' around the heart and mind of the Christian



# Praises...

- *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*  
Ephesians 1:3
- The first Blessed is different from the second Blessed in this scripture.
- The first one is an Adoration whilst the second is an Endowment.
- The interplay of our relationship with Christ and that with the Father is fascinating!! The Father has blessed us in Christ!!
- EVERY spiritual blessing!! Wow!



# The Father!

- Paul begins not with us, but with God. The first word is praise, not request, not lament, not complaint but *blessing*.
- He acknowledges God as the **Father of Jesus Christ**, meaning He is not some distant force, but a relational God, a loving Father, the source of all life.
- To bless God is not to add anything to Him because He lacks nothing.
- To acknowledge His worth, His goodness, His holiness; this is massive
- Spiritually, this orients us: before anything else, the believer's heart posture is adoration.
- Everything begins in worship!!

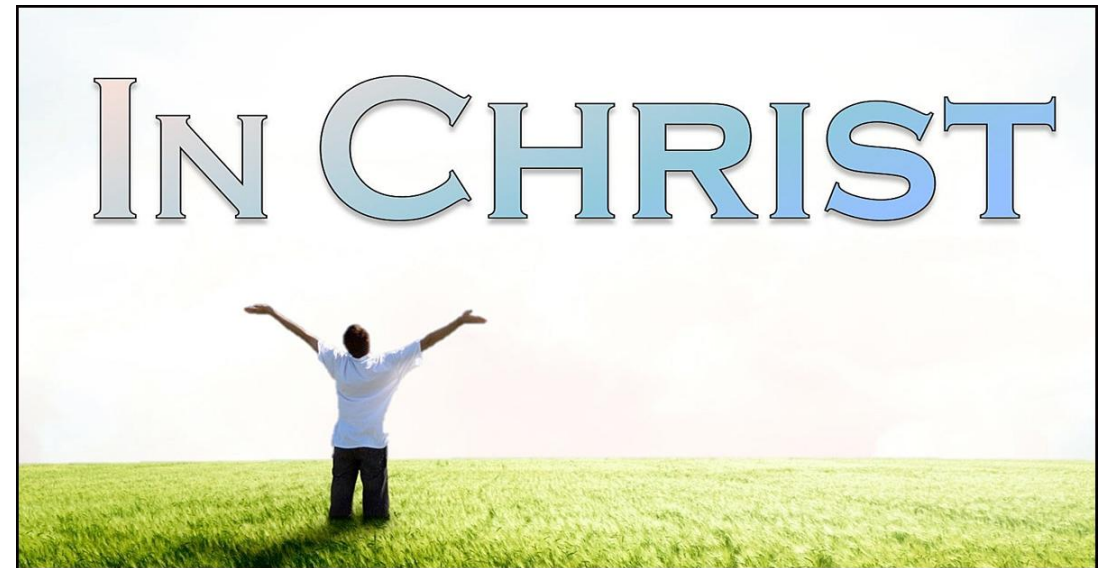
# Blessed!



- Paul shifts from what we give to what we receive. God is not only the One worthy of blessing, but the One who has *already blessed us*.
- Notice the tense: not *will bless*, not *might bless*, but *has blessed*. This is past, settled, eternal.
- This means the spiritual life does not begin with striving to earn, but with awakening to what has already been given.
- Our life in Christ begins with grace, not effort; with gift, not wages.

# In Christ!

- This is the heart of Paul's theology, repeated like a refrain throughout Ephesians.
- Every blessing, every grace, every gift of God comes **in Christ**. Not beside Him, not apart from Him, not by our own worthiness....but in union with Jesus.
- Think of it like being grafted into a living tree. The sap of life flows because we are joined to Him.
- All spiritual blessing flows through the root of Christ into us. Our identity is inseparable from His.
- This is the mystery: we are seen in Christ as beloved, forgiven, chosen, adopted. Outside Him, we are empty. In Him, we are full of His Life!



# Every...

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- Not *some*, not *a portion*, not *the bare minimum*—but **every** spiritual blessing.
- This points to the fullness of God’s generosity. He does not ration His love, nor measure out His grace in teaspoons. He pours Himself without limit.
- “Spiritual blessing” means these gifts are not merely earthly comforts (health, wealth, safety),
- but treasures of the Spirit: forgiveness, adoption, redemption, peace, wisdom, hope, joy, the indwelling Holy Spirit, the promise of eternal life.
- These blessings are the invisible but tangible realities that shape and sustain our souls, transcending circumstances.



# Heavenly Places..

- This phrase lifts our gaze upward. Our blessings are not tied to the instability of the earth.
- They are rooted in the eternal, heavenly realm, where moth and rust cannot destroy, where politics cannot corrupt, where time cannot decay.
- It reminds us that the believer already participates in the reality of heaven through union with Christ.
- Even now, seated with Him in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:6), we share in the riches of His kingdom.
- Our feet may stand on earth, but our life is hidden with Christ in God.

