

(EPHESIANS 1) "IN CHRIST"

- (v1) "the saints who are in Ephesus" - within the city limits; specified area; location; abide within the boundary; area defined as Ephesus; (not outside the city)
"faithful in Christ Jesus" - Christians located in that area.
- (v3) "who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing ... in Christ"
(Matthew 5:45) certain blessings are for all in the world: night and day, sunshine and rain ...
"every spiritual blessing" is located in a specified place, "in Christ."
"in Christ" - meaning, in His body, the church (Eph. 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18)
Entrance to that place is by being baptized (Acts 2:38, v47; Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 12:13)
- (v4) "just as He chose us in Him" - all "in Christ" are "chosen."
"Chosen" - selected out of; taken; made choice; to pick out.
A "choice" God made "before the foundation of the world" to determine our life-style.
- (v5) "predestined us to adoption of sons by Jesus Christ to Himself"
"predestined" - pre-determined; fore-ordained; fore-know; to mark out before-hand.
God determined before the foundations of the world that those "in Christ" are located in a place of salvation from His wrath. (see Eph. 5:23)
"adoption of sons" - brought into the family; the place and condition of a "son" given to one to whom it does not naturally belong; the title of "sons" bestowed in distinction from a relationship consequent merely upon birth. (Gal. 4:4-7; Rms. 8:14-17)
"by Jesus Christ" - it is accomplished by our being "in Christ."
- (v6) "He made us accepted in the Beloved"
"accepted" - to make acceptable; received.
- (v7) "In Him we have redemption through His blood ... forgiveness of sins ... His grace"
"redemption" - (see v14); a ransom-price to provide our deliverance; to release on receipt of ransom.
(Romans 3:23-26; Matthew 26:28; 1 Peter 1:18-21)
- (v9) "made known unto us the mystery ... which He purposed in Himself"
"mystery" - what was concealed is now revealed; made known; learned the secret.
(1 Peter 1:10-12; Colossians 1:26-28)
- (v10) "He might gather together in one all things in Christ"
"in the dispensation of the fullness of the times" - the last days; the N.T. era.
(Gal. 4:4; Colossians 1:13-23; Galatians 3:24-29)
- (v11) "In Him also we have obtained an inheritance"
"inheritance" - birthright; possess in virtue of son-ship; reward; that which is received on conditions of certain precepts.
- (v13) "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel ..."
- (v13) "... in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise"
"sealed" - shows ownership.
"the guarantee" - will complete the promise (Romans 8:11)
You received "the Holy Spirit of promise" at your baptism: (Acts 2:38-39, 5:32)
(Galatians 3:26-27 and 4:6)