

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE

EPHESIANS

Our Riches in Christ

A Study of Ephesians 1:1-6



LCY

Introduction

Ephesians 1:1-3



Ephesus: an architectural illustration.

Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus and the surrounding region around A.D. 60-62 while imprisoned in Rome (Ac 28).

It was written to explain some of the great themes and doctrines of Christianity.

The purpose of Ephesians is to reveal God's eternal plan to unite all things in Christ and to define the church's role as His body.

DOCTRINE AND CONDUCT

The Epistle divides itself into two distinct sections between chapters about (1-3) our standing/position; and chapters on (4-6) - our walk/conduct.

First comes doctrine and then our action; our belief then our behavior; our creed and then our conduct; our principle and then our practice; revelation and then responsibility.

Grace and Peace

Ephesians 1:2

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”

GRACE

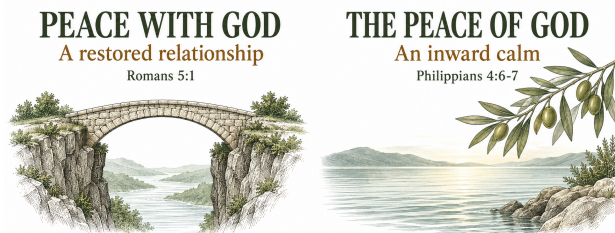
"Grace" in Greek is charis, a profound term denoting unmerited favor, divine influence, kindness, and gratitude. Grace is God's good will, favor and work toward us.

Grace always precedes peace in these greetings. We do not work for grace, because grace is what God does for us through His Son Jesus by His sacrifice on the cross (Jn 3:16; II Co 5:19-21).

PEACE

(a) The peace with God (Ro 5:1) - the relationship, and

(b) the peace of God - the experience (Ph 4:6-7)



Peace in relationship and experience.

Chosen and Predestined

Ephesians 1:4-6

This election by God is general, not particular; corporate, not individual.

Ep 1:5 states that God predestined the chosen for "adoption as sons by Jesus Christ", ensuring they receive the full inheritance and intimate relationship of children within God's family.

To break it down, "choosing" highlights who is selected, while "predestination" highlights where they are going.

THE FLIGHT ANALOGY

Airlines schedule flights between cities months in advance, which means that particular aircraft have predetermined destinations.

While an aircraft has been predestined to travel to a particular location, the passengers who will board that aircraft have not been predetermined.



An illustration of the author's flight analogy.