

# ***STUDYING THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS***

## ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

### **Lesson 1 - Spiritual Blessings in Christ - Ephesians 1:1-14**

**Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.**

*Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.*

EPH 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

EPH 1:2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

EPH 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. [4] For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love [5] he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- [6] to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. [7] In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace [8] that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. [9] And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, [10] to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

EPH 1:11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, [12] in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. [13] And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **Lesson 1 - Spiritual Blessings in Christ - Ephesians 1:1-14**

1. How was Paul made an apostle? (1:1)
2. To whom was the letter addressed? (1:1)
3. What greetings did Paul extend to the believers at Ephesus? (1:2)
4. How has God blessed believers? (1:3)

5. When did God's work of election take place? (1:4)
6. What is the purpose of God's election? (1:4)
7. What did God determine beforehand for those who believe in Christ? (1:5)
8. What is the goal of God's election? (1:6)
9. What is redemption? (1:7)
10. What does the work of Christ do for the believer? (1:7)
11. What has God given the believer? (1:8-10)
12. When will everything be brought together? (1:10)
13. How did God's plan include people of different cultures? (1:11-12)
14. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those called to receive spiritual blessings in Christ? (1:13-14)

### **Prayer Lesson 2 - Thanksgiving and Prayer - Ephesians 1:15-23**

EPH 1:15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, [16] I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. [17] I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. [18] I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, [19] and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, [20] which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, [21] far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. [22] And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### **Prayer Lesson 2 - Thanksgiving and Prayer - Ephesians 1:15-23**

15. What motivated Paul to pray for the Ephesians? (1:15-16)
16. What did Paul ask God to give to the Ephesian Christians? (1:17)
17. What is the purpose of having wisdom and revelation? (1:17)

18. Why did Paul ask that the Ephesians' hearts would continue to be enlightened? (1:18)
19. What kind of help is available to all Christians? (1:19-20)
20. How is God's power at work in all creation? (1:21)
21. How does God's power reach across time? (1:21)
22. What did God place under Christ's control? (1:22)
23. What appointment did God give Christ? (1:22)
24. What is the church's relationship to Christ? (1:22-23)