

Easy As 1-2-3



Ephesians 1:1-14 ¹

It's As Easy As 1-2-3

Select where you would like to begin and enjoy!

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Overall Understanding

Ephesians One²

Prepare to be blessed by learning of the blessings that have been given to us by God because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross. Previously, we read these chapters without realizing the glories of what Paul was saying.

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

Paul is the author and calls himself an apostle/ambassador/sent one of Jesus. We know from the story of his conversion that God called him directly.

The "will of God" carries with it the meaning that Paul served at God's pleasure.

Paul calls the Christians saints. "Saints" is the Greek word "hagios" which means "pure, blameless, and holy". We are

We are
saints-
pure,
blameless,
holy

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pure, blameless, holy, and pure, not because of our own efforts but because of the working of Jesus.

We are the believing ones

He was writing to the Ephesians, whom he called “faithful” in Christ. Although the Ephesians were faithful in the sense most people perceive it—that of being diligent in service, “faithful” more closely means the “believing ones.” The Ephesians believed in Jesus and didn’t waver.

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

It is easy to read this line and miss the magnificence of it. In Scripture, the gospel is often called “the gospel of peace” and the “gospel of the grace of God.”

“Grace” is *charis* in Greek (χάρις) and means “favor, benefit, gift. It has also been defined as “unmerited favor” from God. Grace is more than a mere greeting. When Paul said, “Grace and peace to you,” he was not just wishing the hearers well; he was imparting a blessing: May God’s goodness be imparted to you. Paul did not see grace and peace as *features* of Christianity, but as the gospel itself.

We have God’s favor

Acts 20:24

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.

WE have peace, quietness, rest, prosperity, oneness with God.

“Peace” is “*eirene*” in the Greek (εἰρήνη) and means, from which we get the name “Irene”. “*Eirene*” means “peace, quietness, rest, and implies prosperity and oneness.” Again, this peace, prosperity, quietness, rest, and oneness come from God our Father and the

Lord Jesus Christ. The gospel is the good news about God providing peace to mankind.

Ephesians 6:15 ...having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

This verse does not mean that God selected beforehand who would be saved. Rather, it means that those who would believe were chosen to be holy and without blame before Him, “Whoever” believes will not perish. “God is not willing that any should perish.”

We are chosen to be holy and without blame in love.

⁵having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

We are sons of God by His will and pleasure.

Those who believe were predestined to adoption as sons to God. This is in agreement with His good pleasure.

⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Paul breaks forth with praise for the glory of His grace. By this grace, this favor which we do not deserve, we are saved and accepted into the Beloved.

The word “accepted” (*χαριτώ*) *charitoo*, is used only two places in the New Testament, here and when the angel spoke to Mary, calling her “highly favored.” It means “to *grace*, that is, indue with special *honor*: - make accepted, be highly favored.”

We are accepted, indued with special honor, highly favored

⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

We have, right now/ongoing redemption. How does Paul define redemption? He calls it the forgiveness of sins. We have ongoing redemption, ongoing forgiveness of sins.

By the riches of His grace, we have redemption the forgiveness of sins, now and continually.

How do we have ongoing forgiveness? Is it through confession of sins? This would have been a logical place for Paul to have told them that they had forgiveness of sins via confessing them. But he doesn't. He states it as a fact. How is that possible? He tells us: “through His blood.”

1 John 1:7

If we walk in the light as He is in the light (meaning, if we are Christians), we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses (is cleansing us) of all sins.

⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,
⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

By His grace we have wisdom and moral prudence.

The riches (abundance, wealth) of His grace abound toward us! “Abound” means “superabound.”

The riches of His grace superabounds to us,

¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

There is more information in our detailed study notes, but Paul is speaking of a time to come in which all things will be brought back to perfect order.

¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

We have an inheritance now and in the future.

We have obtained an inheritance is a loaded sentence which Paul will continue to disclose in the first three chapters of his letter.

¹³ In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

We are sealed by the Holy Spirit until He returns for us.

We believed the good news of our salvation, the word of truth. Faith comes by hearing. We were not only saved, but sealed with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the guarantee/down payment of our inheritance until He returns.

This is taken from the detailed notes (link above).

Ephesians 1:1-14 Summary **The Knowledge Of Who We Are IN HIM**

All of these are already ours by grace through faith.

- vs. 2 We have grace from God.
- vs. 2 We have peace from God.
- vs. 3 We have every spiritual blessing.
- vs. 4 We are chosen to be holy before Him.
- vs. 4 We are chosen to be without blame before Him.
- vs. 5 We are His children.
- vs. 6 We are accepted, highly favored.
- vs. 7 We have redemption/the forgiveness of sins.
- vs. 8 He made the riches of His grace superabound toward us.
- vs. 9 He made known the knowledge of the mystery of His will.
- vs. 11 We are God's inheritance and we have obtained an inheritance.
- vs. 12 He predestined that we should be to the praise of His glory.
- vs. 13 We were sealed with the Holy Spirit.
- vs. 14 The Holy Spirit is the pledge of our ultimate redemption.

We do not need to strive to obtain these things.

HE is the one who has FREELY GIVEN (GRACIOUSLY GRACED) us with them in love through his son.

Consequently, Jesus gets all the glory and praise, and we cannot boast.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹ so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."