



Filled Up to All the Fulness of God

An Overview of Ephesians

1/24/21

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, and *who are faithful in Christ Jesus:*

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

A. God's Plans to Bless Us

1:3 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,

⁴ ... He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world...

⁵ ... He predestined us to adoption as sons ...

⁷ ... In Him we have redemption through His blood ...

⁹ ... He made known to us the mystery of His will ...

¹¹ ... we have obtained an inheritance ...

¹³ ... you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise ...

B. God's Desire to Enlighten Us

1:15 For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you, and your love for all the saints,

¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers;

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

¹⁸ *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe...

C. God's Work to Save Us

2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*, in Christ Jesus,

⁷ in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

⁹ not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

D. God's Way to Unify Us

2:11 Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision " by the so-called "Circumcision," *which is* performed in the flesh by human hands--

¹² *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

¹⁵ by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace,

¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

E. God's Reason to Strengthen Us

3:14 For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father,

¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,

¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man;

¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be

filled up to all the fulness of God.

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

²¹ to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Therefore

1. Pursue unity through mutual edification

4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love,

³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

⁴ *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

2. Put on the new self with these practices

¹⁷ This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

¹⁸ being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

¹⁹ and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way,

²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
²⁴ and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one *of you*, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

²⁶ Be angry, and *yet* do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity.

²⁸ Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have *something* to share with him who has need.

²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a *word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, that it may give grace to those who hear.

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

³² And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

² and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

³ But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

⁴ and *there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks...