

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 1

The Ephesian church dates from about AD 53 [see Acts 19.1-20]. Later, Paul spent over two years teaching them. The letter was sent while Paul was a prisoner in Rome – about AD 60.

AS distinct from letters like the letter to the Galatians and the first letter to the Corinthians, this is not written to deal with problems in the church, but is rather a letter of encouragement.

Read chapter 1 [v1-6, 7-12 and 13-23]

Q. Who chose whom and to what end (v4)?

Q. What does “in love” mean at the end of v4?

Q. In v5, Paul says we are “predestined to adoption as sons”. What does predestination mean?

Q. What is the status of “adopted” in terms of being part of God’s family?

Q. In v11, the word predestinated is used again. What is promised this time?

The same word is used twice by Paul in his letter to the Romans

Read Rom 8.28,29

Q. What is promised here?

Q. How does predestination balance against free choice?

Read Deut 30.15-20 and Joshua 24.1

Q. In v7, we are told that we have redemption through His blood. What does redemption mean? Who is the one who redeems and how?

Read Lev 25.47-49

Q. What does the law say about redemption?

Read Ruth 3.1-13, 4.1-11

Q. What did Ruth ask Boaz to do?

Q. He was not the closest relative. Why did the one in question decline.

Q. What did God think about Boaz’s actions?

Read John 8.31-36

Q. To what is the normal man a slave?

Read 2Cor 5.21

Q. What was the result of the redemption shown in this verse?

Q. In Ephesians 1,9,10 , what is the mystery referred to (v9)?

Q. What does it mean by all things?

Read Colossians 1.15-19

Q. Is the curse of Genesis 3 included in the redemption?

Read Romans 8.19-23

Q. Is this part of redemption still future?

Read Revelation 21.27-22.3

Q. Is this the final part of redemption?

Back to Ephesians.1.13,14 We were sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Q. What does this mean? How long are we sealed for?

Read 1 Cor3.16,17

Q. We all recognise ourselves as sinners –saved by grace, but what does v17 say about our state of holiness? Why are we holy?

In Ephesians 1.15,16, Paul talks about his prayers for the saints and asks God to give them “the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him” (v17).

Q. What does the spirit of wisdom and revelation mean?

Q. What is the hope of His calling (v18)?

Read Colossians1.27

Q. What is the hope of glory? Is this the same as the hope of His calling?

Read Colossians2.9,10

Q. What does all this mean for us if Christ is in us?

Q. What does it mean to be “complete in Him who is the head of all principality and power”?

Read Ephesians 1.19-23

Q. Where is Jesus now?

Q. What is His power towards us who believe?

Read Matthew 28.18

Q. What does it mean to be “head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all”?