

# THE PREDATORS



## Chapter 1

Vs. 1a Paul Establishes the Source of His Authority

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God [the Father],

Vs. 1b-2 Greetings to those he is writing to

1b to the saints who are in Ephesus, and [to all who are] faithful  
in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace to [all of] you and peace from God our Father and the  
Lord Jesus Christ.

## Heavenly Blessings

### Vs. 3-6 Blessings of the Father

3 Blessed be the God and Father [by eternal relationship] of our Lord Jesus Christ, who [the Father] has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. [Where did they originate?] in the heavenly *places* [and more specifically] in Christ,

4 just as He [the Father] chose us [those that believe] to be in Him [in Christ] before the foundation of the world [before we did any good or evil]. [For what purpose did He choose us?] that we should be holy [separated unto Him] and without [any] blame before Him.

5 In love, having predestined [cf. 1:11; Rom. 8:29], us [believers only] to [a legal binding] adoption as sons [and daughters] by Jesus Christ to Himself [the Father], according to the good pleasure of His, [the Father's] will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted [because we have found favor by being] with-In the Beloved [Son].

## Vs. 7-12 Blessings of the Son

7 In Him [the Son] we have [or we possess] redemption [a ransom paid to release those in bondage] through His blood. [What was the payment for?] the forgiveness of sins, [and this forgiveness comes] according to the riches of His [love driven] grace

8 which [grace] He made to [intelligently] abound toward us with-in all wisdom and prudence [or understanding],

9 [Through] having made known [or revealed] to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed [only] in Himself.

10 [What is the mystery hidden until now?] that in the dispensation of the fullness of the [current] times He might gather together in one [body], [and in one place, in the air, at the rapture] all things [concerning the Church, which are] in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth— [gathered together] in Him.

11 In Him also we have obtained [by legal adoption in v.5] an inheritance [as joint heirs with Him, Rom. 8:17], being predestined [or having as our horizon or goal, our inheritance]

according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

12 that we who first trusted [hoped] in Christ should be to the praise of His glory [both on earth and in Heaven].

Vs. 13-14 Until then, We Have the Blessings of the Spirit

13 In Him [Jesus] you also *trusted* [hoped] after you heard the word of truth. [What word of truth?] the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, [the person of the Gospel], having believed, you were sealed [thus secured forever] with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the [completed] redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Vs. 15-23 Until Then, His Prayer for Them

In verses 15-18, Prayer for Spiritual Enlightenment

15 Therefore, I also, after I heard of your faith [that was actively placed] in the Lord Jesus and your [active] love for all the saints,  
16 do not cease [1 Thes. 5:17] to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.

17 [What is the general content of his prayers for them?] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in [or with regards to] the [full] knowledge of Him [Jesus],

18 [which will result in] the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know [or have knowledge regarding] what is the [future] hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in [or with regards to] the saints,

vs. 19-23 and Until Then Prayer For Power

19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His [the Father's] power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power. [What is the measure of this power?]

20 which [power] He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

21 [What is He and His power superior to? It is] far above all principality [rule or rulers] and [any other] power [authority] and might and dominion [lordship], and every name that is named, not only in this [the Church] age but also in that [age] which is to come [which is the Kingdom Age].

22 And [His power and authority will bring submission for] He [the Father has] put all *things* under His [Christ's] feet, and gave Him to be head over all *things* to [or especially concerning] the church.

23 [What is the Church?] which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

## Chapter 2

### Vs. 1-3 What We Were Before Saving Grace

- 1 And [before] *He made you alive*, [and made you children and heirs you] who were dead [separated from God] in [your deliberate] trespasses and [your naturally occurring] sins,
- 2 in which [sinfulness] you once walked according to the course [of this age which is] of this world [and its philosophies which are], according to the prince [the ruler] of the power of the air [the spirit domain], the spirit who now works in the sons [or children] of disobedience,
- 3 among whom also we all [believers] once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires [or will] of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature [birthed as] children of wrath, just as *all* the others [who all fall short].

Vs. 4-10 But the God of Mercy and Grace

4 But God, who is rich in mercy [that holds back His abiding wrath of v.3]. [Why would He hold back His wrath?] because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead [separated] in [or by deliberate] trespasses. [He who loved us] made us alive together with Christ [at His resurrection] (by grace you have been saved),

6 and raised *us* up together [as one], and made *us* sit together [as one] in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus.

7 [Why? In order] that in the ages to come [the Kingdom Age & the Eternal realm] He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us [goodness towards the undeserving who are now] in Christ Jesus.

8 For [or because] by grace you have been [and are continuously being] saved through faith, and that [salvation is] not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,*

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast [that their works saved them].

10 For we are His workmanship [His poetic work], created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand [before time] that we should walk in them [the good works].

### Vs. 11-13 Gentiles Brought Near by His Blood

11 Therefore [you Gentile Christians] remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh —who are called Uncircumcision [aka, ‘Gentiles’] by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by [Jewish] hands—

12 that at that time [before Christ Crucified and His Gospel] you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the [unconditional] covenants of promise [to Abraham & David], having no hope and without God in the [inhabited] world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus [by grace, by faith in Christ] you who once were far off have been brought near by the [forgiving, reconciling] blood of Christ.

## Vs. 14-18 Christ the Unifier of Jew and Gentile

14 For He Himself is our [Gentile & Jewish] peace, who has made both one. [How so?] and has broken down the middle wall of separation [the Mosaic Law],

15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity. [What is the enmity?] *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as [with a plan to] to create in Himself one new man *from* the two [with the middle broken down], *thus* making peace [oneness],

16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity [the requirements of the Law of commandments for breaking them].

17 And He came and preached peace to you [Gentiles] who were afar off and to those who were near [the Jews].

18 For through Him we both [Jew and Gentile] have access by one Spirit to the [same] Father.

19a Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers [non-family] and foreigners [from a foreign land],

Vs. 19-22 Christ the Cornerstone of the Foundation

19b but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God [all believers, all family, in Heaven and on earth],

20 having been built on the [completed] foundation of the [first-tier] Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows [up from the completed foundation] into a holy temple [cf. 1 Cor. 3:16] in the Lord,

22 in whom [the Lord,] you also are [continuously] being built together [as one people] for a dwelling place of God [with]in the Spirit.

## Chapter 3

Vs. 1-7 The Mystery of Grace Revealed and Explained

1a For this reason [because of v.22]

19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you [Gentile believers] are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,  
20 having been built on the [completed] foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone,

4:11 And He [Jesus] Himself gave some [men] to be *the* apostles, some *the* prophets, some *the* evangelists, and some *the* pastors and teachers,

Ephesians 4:10-11 reads,

10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens,  
that He might fill all things.

11 And He Himself gave some to be *the* apostles, some *the* prophets, some *the*  
evangelists, and some *the* pastors and teachers,

“The foundation of the apostles and prophets refers to the divine revelation that they taught, which in its written form is the New Testament. The meaning is not that the Apostles and Prophets were themselves the foundation—though in a certain sense they were—but that they laid the foundation. Paul spoke of himself as “a wise master builder” who “laid an already formed or existing foundation” and went on to say, “For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 3:10-11)... These are New Testament prophets, as indicated by the facts that they are listed after the apostles and are part of the building of the church of Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:5; 4:11). Their unique function was to authoritatively speak the word of God to the church in the years before the New Testament canon was complete. The fact that they are identified with the foundation reveals that they were limited to that formative period. As Ephesians 4:11 shows, they completed their work and gave way to “evangelists, and... pastors and teachers.”

1b I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus [not of Rome] for you Gentiles—  
2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation [as a household manager] of the  
grace of God which was given to me for you [Gentiles],

**Rom. 11:13** For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,

**Acts 9:15** But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

**Rom. 15:16** that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

**2 Tim 1:11** to which **[Gospel]** I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

## Acts 1:12

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James [11 in all].

14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers [who did not believe in Him until after His resurrection].

15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said,

16 "Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus;

17 for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry."

18 (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out.

19 And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

20 "For it is written in the Book of Psalms:

‘Let his dwelling place be desolate,

And let no one live in it’;

and,

‘Let another take his office.’