

STUDY 1a

Ephesians Chapter 1:1-14 (modernisedAV)

¹Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:²Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

⁴since he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:⁵Having predestined us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,⁶To the praise of the glory of his grace, in which he has made us accepted in the beloved.⁷In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;⁸in which he has

abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;⁹Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he has purposed in himself:¹⁰That in the day of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:¹¹In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined

according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will:¹²That we, who first trusted in Christ, should be to the praise of his glory.¹³In whom you also trusted, after you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after you had believed, you were sealed

with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴which is the guaranteeing deposit of our inheritance until the redemption of those purchased as God's possession, unto the praise of his glory.

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Paul confidently call himself *Apostle*, how do you describe yourself? Do you see yourself as God sees you?

Who does the us & we refer to? To whom was the letter addressed (see v1)? Is it *me* the individual who was predestined or is it the *body of saints* corporately?

Redemption: "re-purchase, as of something sold"

What/who were we sold to?

What were we bought back from?

What is our inheritance?

Discuss, then see *Genesis 15:1*

What is our purpose?

How do we achieve this?

Or does He do it all in us and for us?

Who is this letter addressed to?

An individual? A group?

Is he using the word *saints* in the way we might use it today?

"Count your blessings" Can you list the ways in which we are blessed?

Which blessings are you particularly aware of?

Where are our blessings?

If God has already abounded grace to us, why does Paul pray in verse 2 "Grace be to you"?

Compare with verse 4.

Were we saved before the foundation of the world or when we believed?

If you put down a deposit on a house or car what does it mean? Is it yours to use yet? What are you saying to the current owner?

What does God's deposit in you mean?

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