

Calvary Chapel of Escondido  
*Men's Ministry Bible Study*  
Ephesians Study #1 – Adoption as Sons  
of God

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Ephesians was written by Paul while he was imprisoned in Rome. Paul spent more time in Ephesus than any other community. So when he wrote this epistle, he was able to expound on his previous teachings. He was able to get into the deeper, spiritual, meatier teachings. This book starts out showing us our position with our Lord and Savior and with those who are faithful in Christ Jesus. Many of the commentators tout Ephesians to be one of the most profound letters that Paul ever wrote. *The deep things of God*. Ephesians is the fulfillment of this. It reveals the things God has prepared for those who love Him.

When we read the letter to the church of Ephesus in Revelation, we see that they had all the doctrine down pat. They had received plenty of instruction, yet they had lost their first love. They are exhorted to return to their first love. What we get to see in this week's study is our position in God as believers and followers of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

### **Supportive Scripture**

*But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)*

*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13)*

*For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." (Romans 8:15)*

*"I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:18)*

*In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:14)*

### **Key Verse**

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. (Ephesians 1:11)

### **Memory Verse**

Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began. (2 Timothy 1:9)

### Quote

“The Epistle to the Ephesians is a complete Body of Divinity. In the first chapter you have the doctrines of the gospel; in the next, you have the experience of the Christians; and before the Epistle is finished, you have the precepts of the Christian faith. Whosoever would see Christianity in one treatise, let him ‘read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest’ the Epistle to the Ephesians.” ~ *Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-92) was England's best-known preacher for most of the second half of the nineteenth century. In 1854, just four years after his conversion, Spurgeon, then only 20, became pastor of London's famed New Park Street Church.*

## Questions for Group Discussion

### Ephesians 1:1-12

1. **(v.1-2) According to Paul** – In this greeting to the church of Ephesus, what must you be before you can accept the grace and peace of Jesus Christ?
2. **(v.3) Spiritual Blessing** – You notice we are promised all the spiritual blessings. This is often misunderstood and the word *spiritual* is overlooked. What is meant by every Spiritual blessing in the Heavenly places? Give examples.
3. **(v.4) He Chose Us** – Notice we were chosen even before the world was formed. Why did He choose us? How can we accomplish this?
4. **(v.5-6) Adopted** – Here we see that we are adopted as sons by Jesus Christ Himself. We are his sons and daughters. How wonderful it is that we are His family. Verses 5 & 6 tell us that Jesus does this according to His will, not of our own efforts. What are Jesus’ feelings about this? How is this done?
5. **(v.7) Forgiven** – According to this verse, we have the redemption of our sins by two things. What are they?

6. **(v.8-9) Knowledge** – What is the mystery spoken of here?
  
7. **(v.9-10) All things in Christ** – We have the dispensation of the fullness of times and the gathering together of all things in Heaven and Earth. Explain what this means to you.
  
8. **(v.11-12) An Inheritance** – There are two things that are required of us in these two verses. What are they? Why are they important?

### **Additional Questions for Personal Study**

1. How do these promises of our position in Christ give you comfort?
  
2. Does this change your outlook on your relationship with Jesus?
  
3. Does the gift of Grace become clearer? Why or why not?
  
4. It is good to see that it is all according to the will of the Father. Does this cause you to feel more freedom in your faith? Why or why not?