

In Christ Alone
A Study of Ephesians 1
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Intro: What is the greatest gift you've ever received?

- A. What does that gift say about the one who gave it?
 - 1. It is often a token of that person's affection and love
 - 2. The nature and value of the gift can also tell of the giver's ability to give
- B. What do we do in response to that gift?
 - 1. We give thanks!
 - 2. We often give a gift in return, sometimes in proportion to the gift we received.
- C. Let us consider God's gifts to us in Christ, and let us consider our response to them.

I. Look at what God has done for us *in Christ!* – **Ephesians 1:3-14**

A. Ultimately, every good thing comes from God – **James 1:17**

- 1. **v.3** – Blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places *in Christ*.
 - a. We can't even *imagine* all the things God has done for us! –

1 Corinthians 2:9

B. Things God has done before time

- 1. **v.4** – Chose us *in Him* before the foundation of the world – **Romans 8:28-30**
- 2. **v.5** – He predestined us to adoption as sons *through Jesus Christ* –
Romans 8:15-17
- 3. **v.6** – Freely bestowed His grace on us *in the Beloved*

C. Things God has done in sending Christ to earth to die

- 1. **v.7-8** – *In Him* we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses
 - a. This gift of forgiveness is an awesome one that He continues to give on a daily basis! – **Ephesians 2:1-10**
 - b. Our response to God's forgiveness is one of the things that defines us as a person, whether saved or lost. – **Romans 2:4**

D. Things God has done through His word in Christ

- 1. **v.9** – Made known to us the mystery of His will, which He purposed *in Him* – **1 Peter 1:10-12**
- 2. **v.10** - Summed up all things *in Christ* – Fulfillment of the OT – **Galatians 3:24**

E. Things God has promised us through Christ

- 1. **v.11** – *In Him* we have obtained an inheritance – **1 Peter 1:3-4**
- 2. **v.12** – We who were the first to hope *in Christ* would be to the praise of His glory.
- 3. **v.13** – *In Him*, after hearing and believing, we were sealed *in Him* with the Holy Spirit
 - a. This is the Holy Spirit who was promised in **Acts 2:38**
- 4. **v.14** – *In Him*, we were redeemed as God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.
 - a. God has always wanted a relationship with His people – **1 Peter 2:9-10**

II. As God has done these things for us *in Christ*, what do we do now?

A. Things they were already doing:

1. **v.15** – Faith in the Lord Jesus – **Romans 10:17**
2. **v.15** – Love for all the saints
 - a. This has always defined God’s people – **John 13:34-35**

B. Things Paul did:

1. **v.16** – Thanksgiving
 - a. Paul often would begin his letters with thanksgiving to God – **Philippians 1:3-6**
2. **v.16** – Prayer – **Colossians 4:2**
 - a. This is a critical component of our reaction to God’s blessings

C. Things Paul prayed that the Lord would give them:

1. **v.17** – Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him – **Eph 3:14-19**
 - a. Though they had received these blessings, they still needed to *seek God* and come to a better *knowledge of His nature*.
2. **v.18** – The eyes of our heart need to be enlightened – know the hope of His calling
 - a. This hope is our anchor – rooted and grounded in Christ – **Hebrews 6:17-20**
3. **v.19-21** – Know the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe
 - a. This might is brought about *in Christ* when He raised Him from the dead – **Romans 1:4**
 - b. The resurrection is God’s greatest show of power, and demands our attention and reaction!
4. **v.22-23** – Be in subjection to Him and serve as part of His body—the church
 - a. Our commitment to Christ body in the local and universal sense is a critical part of our service to God on this earth!

Conclusion: How are we living in light of what God has done for us *in Christ*?

A. We’ve been given the greatest gift ever imagined – how are we using it?

1. We won’t be able to find these gifts anywhere else!

Ex. Lyrics to hymn – In Christ Alone

B. If you’re not a Christian and want to receive these blessings that come only through Christ, God has made provisions to adopt you as His child.

May God help us all to better appreciate what He’s done *in Christ*—and serve Him better because of it!