

September 1, 2024
Ephesians 1:1-6
In Christ I Am:

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Author: Paul

Date of writing: A. D. 60-63

Recipients: Ephesus and possibly a circular letter to all the churches of Asia Minor.

Place of writing: Paul is a prisoner in Rome, see **Acts 28:16, 30**. Also see **Ephesians 3:1**.

Theme: Unity in Christ. Gleaned from *The Believer's Study Bible*.

In Christ, **Ephesians 1:1-9** states that all who are genuinely saved are: blessed (v 3), chosen (v 4), predestined (v 5), adopted (v 5), accepted (v 6), redeemed (v 7), forgiven (v 7), enlightened (vv 8-9). Gleaned from *The Believer's Study Bible*

The work of the Father: Election (**Ephesians 1:3-6**)

The work of the Son: Redemption (**Ephesians 1:7-12**)

The work of the Spirit: Protection (**Ephesians 1:13-14**) Gleaned from *The Believer's Study Bible*

Vv 3-14 are all one complete sentence in Greek. These verses speak of the benefits of salvation. Notice too that the Trinity is found within this pericope. The epistle was probably delivered by Tychicus, see **Ephesians 6:21-22**.

Paul spent a short period of time in Ephesus on his return from his 2nd MJ. See **Acts 18:19-22**. On his 3rd MJ he stayed in Ephesus for 3 years, see **Acts 20:31**. On his return to Jerusalem Paul gave a moving farewell address to the elders of the Ephesian church in the coastal town of Miletus, see **Acts 20:13-35**.

Paul addressed no particular problems in Ephesus. He did warn them sternly to watch out for false teachers. We find in the **Revelation 2:4**, that over time the church left their first love. Paul spoke of love often, in verb form he used *agapaō* love 9 times in the book of Ephesians and only 23 times in all of his epistles combined. Paul used the noun form of *agapē* love 10 times in Ephesians in comparison to 65 times in all the other epistles. Ephesians begins and ends with the theme of love. Love God, love others.

The Ephesian epistle was written while Paul was imprisoned in Rome. Gleaned from *Harold H. Hoener*

Paul taught doctrine and practical living in Ephesians. Right thinking results in right actions/living.

Application:

“God’s sovereign election and man’s exercise of responsibility in choosing Jesus Christ seem opposite and irreconcilable truths-and from our limited human perspective they are opposite and irreconcilable. That is why so many earnest, well-meaning Christians

throughout the history of the church have floundered trying to reconcile them. Since the problem cannot be resolved by our finite minds, the result is always to compromise one truth in favor of the other or to weaken both by trying to take a position somewhere between them. We should let the antimony remain, believing both truths completely and leaving the harmonizing of them to God." *John MacArthur* (The word "antimony" in this context may best be understood as "not one", or "not alone").