

Introduction

I want to make it clear right away that this commentary series is not for Bible scholars, pastors or anyone else who is well versed in the Greek New Testament.

Instead, this commentary series is for everyone else who does not fit into that group of scholars. It is for those who would like to study the New Testament with the knowledge of what the significant Greek words mean and how they fit into the context of each verse, chapter and book that you may be studying.

As a pastor, I have watched many Christians (not just new Christians either) struggle to better understand what God is saying to them through His Word.

I started doing this process more than twenty years ago when I was teaching a new member class at my church. As it turned out, I started with eight adults who were all either totally new to studying the Bible or they were not the strongest readers. Therefore, both groups were having a difficult time understanding the Bible.

So, I began by placing the verses of each lesson in a diagram form. When that proved to be helpful, I then began to take the Greek words and define them so they could understand the different meanings that each Greek word could have when translated into English.

The result was that the class soon became the largest class in the church and we all (especially me) learned a great deal about God's Word in the process.

Therefore, this is the approach I have taken with this new Bible commentary series. I will show you how this is done with the example provided below,

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The Easy Study Bible Commentary takes *The Easy Study Bible Diagramed* and examines, describes and expounds upon each New Testament book, chapter by chapter, paragraph by paragraph, verse by verse and finally phrase by phrase.

In my many years of Bible study and teaching, I have found this arrangement to be the easiest to follow and understand.

I have done my best to write this commentary with the idea in mind of making it easier for you to understand and therefore apply the great teachings that God gave to each of us through the various books of the New

Testament.

I don't put in the Greek word or the transliteration of the Greek word. I simply put the word as it is translated into the English, then I give the definition of the Greek word as it is in the context of the verse being studied.

At the end of each section that we study, I will give you what I call my Greek Paraphrase. What I do is to take all of the expanded Greek definitions and put them together to help us better understand the passage.

I use this method whenever I study any part of the Bible, whether I'm just studying for my own enrichment or to teach it to others. It helps me to understand each passage well enough to apply it to my life as well as to help others do the same. This makes the whole experience so much more enjoyable for both my students and for me as well.

I sincerely hope that it will make the Bible more understandable for you too. Please let me know how it works for you.

You can reach me anonymously through the 'Contact Us' tab on the menu of my web page.

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Chapter One

Paul's introduction to the letter of Ephesians is much the same as in some of his other letters.

1. He gives thanks and praises to God for His inestimable spiritual blessings bestowed on the Ephesian Christians.

2. Paul gives earnest prayers to God on behalf of the Ephesians.

3. He blesses God for calling the Gentiles to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ, by whose sacrificial death brings both Jewish and Gentile Christians to a saving grace.

4. Paul shows that it was only through God's wisdom and goodness that the Gentiles were able to receive salvation.

5. He praises God for their conversion, and prays that they may be grow more and share in the blessings secured by Christ's resurrection.

Verses 1-2

Greeting

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

Greeting

¹ *Paul,
an apostle
of Christ Jesus
by the will of God:
To the saints and faithful
in Christ Jesus
at Ephesus.*

² *Grace to you
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Verse: 1

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God: To the saints and faithful in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.

¹ *Paul,*

*an apostle
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To the saints and faithful
in Christ Jesus
at Ephesus.*

Phrase by phrase:

¹ *Paul,*

Paul – Paulos or Paulus – small or little – Paul was the most famous of the apostles and wrote a good part of the New Testament, the 14 Pauline epistles

It was traditional to start a letter by first identifying yourself and then the person you were sending it to before you officially greeted them.

an apostle

apostle – a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders

of Christ Jesus

Christ – the anointed One, the Messiah

Jesus – Jehovah is salvation

by the will of God:

will – what one wishes or has determined shall be done

God – God the Father

To the saints and faithful

saints – things: most holy thing, consecrated – people: unapproachable, perfect, pure, upright, worthy of God, saint

faithful – trustworthy, faithful, reliable, credible

This word is sometimes translated as **believers** but it should really be **faithful**.

in Christ Jesus

Christ – the anointed One, the Messiah

Jesus – Jehovah is salvation

at Ephesus.

Ephesus – permitted – a maritime city of Asia Minor, capital of Ionia and under the Romans, of proconsular Asia, situated on the Icarian Sea between Smyrna and Miletus

Paul feels the need to describe himself. He does not give himself or any other man credit for who he is. He is an apostle, not of man but of Jesus Christ and he says this is only by the will of God.

He gives the title of saints to all Christians. Again, he does not give them the credit for that but to Christ. He was reminding them that God had made them His own and that they were who they were because they belonged to Him.

Verse 2

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

² ***Grace to you
and peace from God
our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

Phrase by phrase:

² ***Grace to you***

Grace – good will, lovingkindness, favor, grace

“*Grace to you*” was not a normal greeting.

and peace from God

peace – security, safety, prosperity, felicity, tranquility

God – God the Father

“*Peace to you*” was the traditional greeting.

I think Paul was making a statement here about the nature of this letter. He seems to be giving a hint of what is to come. In addition, he wanted more for the Ephesians than mere “*peace*.” He wanted them to have “*grace*” as well.

Paul broke with tradition in two ways. He said, “*Grace to you.*”

Instead of “*Peace to you,*” he said, “*Peace from God.*” That was more of a blessing

By using the word “*grace,*” Paul was reminding them that they had received something completely undeserved.

By using the word “*peace,*” the way he did, Paul was reminding them that their inner peace or tranquility came from God.

our Father

Father – male ancestor; could be any one from immediate father to distant ancestor

and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord – a title, the One we belong to

Jesus – Jehovah is salvation

Christ – the anointed One, the Messiah

Greek Paraphrase of Verses 1-2:

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God the Father: To the saints and faithful believers in Christ Jesus at Ephesus. ² Grace and favor to you along with peace and prosperity from God our Father and the Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

Verses 3-6

God's Rich Blessings

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. ⁴ He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to be adopted through Jesus Christ

for Himself, according to His favor and will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, that He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

God's Rich Blessings

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In love;***

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Verse: 3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

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Phrase by phrase:

³ *Blessed be the God and Father*

Blessed – well-spoken of, blessed, praised

God – God the Father

Father – male ancestor; could be any one from immediate father to distant ancestor

of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Lord – a title, the One we belong to

Jesus – Jehovah is salvation

Christ – the anointed One, the Messiah

who has blessed us

Blessed – well-spoken of, blessed, praised

with every spiritual blessing

spiritual – relating to the human spirit, or rational soul, as part of the man which is akin to God and serves as his instrument or organ

blessing – praise, flattery, blessing, consecration, bounty

in the heavenly places

heavenly places – heavenly, celestial

in Christ.

Christ – the anointed One, the Messiah

In this verse, Paul is stressing how great our spiritual blessings are and that they come from God through Christ, the Son.

Verse: 4

⁴ He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before Him. In love

⁴ ***He chose us
in Him,
before the foundation
of the world,
to be holy and blameless
before Him.
In love;***

Phrase by phrase:

⁴ ***He chose us***

chose – to pick out, choose, to pick or choose out for one's self

“He chose us”— This does not mean that God chose some individuals and rejected others, but that before the world was, before there was Jew or Gentile, God chose to have a people for himself, the whole church of Christ, a covenant people confined to no one earthly race.

This is the same word used in

Luke 6:13, “*When day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve from them, whom He also named apostles*”

One of those disciples chosen was Judas!

in Him,

before the foundation

foundation – foundation, beginning

of the world,

world – the circle of the earth, the earth; the inhabitants of the earth, men, the human family

to be holy and blameless

holy – things: most holy thing, consecrated – people: unapproachable, perfect, pure, upright, worthy of God, saint

This is the same Greek word used in verse one and is translated ‘saints’ there.

blameless – without blemish, faultless, blameless; as a sacrifice without spot or blemish

before Him.

In love;

love – (agapē) brotherly love, affection, good will, love, benevolence

There is some debate as to whether “*In love*” belongs with verse four or should begin verse five. The most accepted Greek manuscript has a semicolon (;) after “*In love.*” Another manuscript has a comma before “*In love.*” As you can see, I like it in verse four.

Verse: 5

⁵ He predestined us to be adopted through Jesus Christ for Himself, according to His favor and will,

⁵ ***He predestined us
to be adopted
through Jesus Christ
for Himself,
according to His favor and will,
⁶ to the praise
of the glory
of His grace,
that He freely bestowed
on us
in the Beloved.***

Phrase by phrase:

⁵ ***He predestined us***

predestined – set boundaries beforehand, appoint or determine beforehand

to be adopted

adopted – the taking of a child as one’s own

through Jesus Christ

through – through, on account of, because of

Jesus – Jehovah is salvation

Christ – the anointed One, the Messiah

for Himself,

according to His favor and will,

according to – according to, toward, along

favor – will, choice; good will, kindly intent, benevolence; delight, pleasure, satisfaction; desire

will – what one wishes or has determined shall be done; of the purpose of God to bless mankind through Christ; of what God wishes to be done by us; commands, precepts; will, choice, inclination, desire, pleasure

It was foreordained that we, the Church of Jesus Christ, should be adopted as his children. This whole line of argument is general instead of particular. God foreordained a church, which should be composed of those adopted as his children. Note the following parallel verses.

***Romans 8:15**, “For you did not receive a spirit of slavery unto fear again, but you received a spirit of adoption by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”*

***Romans 8:23**, “And not only this, but we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption, the redemption of our bodies.”*

***Galatians 4:4-5**, “But when the completion of the time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”*

This is simply another way of saying that salvation is God’s work and not our own doing. God is never caught napping. He has already met every emergency with a predetermined plan of action. When we yell “*Help!*” to God, He doesn’t have to try to think up some way to help us. He has already

provided everything we need. All we have to do is find out what God has provided and how to take advantage of it.

Verse: 6

⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, that He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

*⁶ to the praise
of the glory
of His grace,
that He freely bestowed
on us
in the Beloved.*

Phrase by phrase:

⁶ to the praise

praise – approval, commendation, praise

of the glory

glory – glory, splendor, radiance, fame, renown

of His grace,

grace – good will, lovingkindness, favor, grace

that He freely bestowed

freely bestowed – to give grace, bestow a favor

on us

in the Beloved.

Beloved – to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly

Greek Paraphrase of Verses 3-6:

³ Blessed and praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ the Son. ⁴ He chose us for Himself, before the world began, to be worthy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He determined beforehand that we be taken as His own through Jesus Christ for Himself, according to His favor and wishes, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, that He freely gave to us in the Beloved.