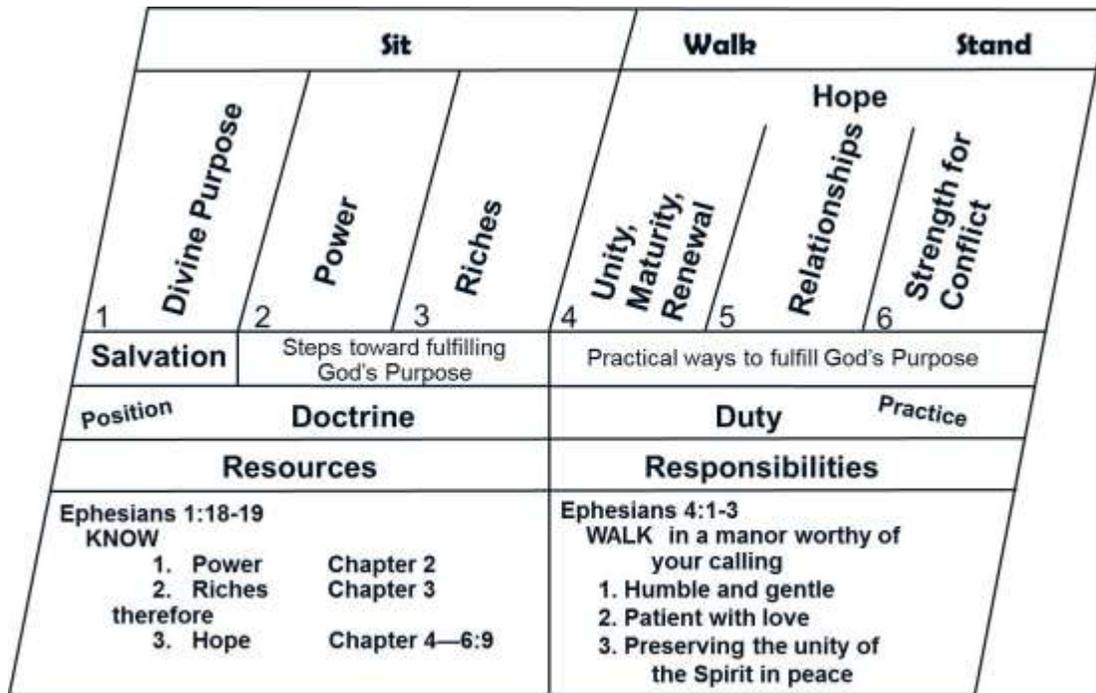


## Ephesians: Blessed Beyond Belief

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### To Build up the Body



### Background

Paul, while in prison in Rome in 60 A.D., prepares final thoughts for the churches in Asia Minor. While doing so, he is informed of two issues, one theological, the other personal occurring in the church at Colossi. Setting aside the draft of his thoughtful, logical and doctrinal encyclical letter, Paul pens the urgent letter to the church at Colossi to address a heresy which diminished the sufficiency of Christ and elevated intellectualism and fostered legalism. While addressing this urgent theological issue, Paul also takes the time to write a very personal letter to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus. Then having dealt with those more “urgent” issues, he returns to the important task of finishing “Ephesians,” sending all three letters by the hand of Tychicus (Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 4:7).

This accounts the similarity in topics but the difference in tone of Ephesians and Colossians.

	<b>Colossians</b>	<b>Ephesians</b>
<b>Theme</b>	Completeness in Christ	Oneness in Christ
<b>Mystery</b>	Christ as the Head of the believer is a mystery	Jew and Gentile as one in the body of Christ is a mystery
<b>Christ and the Church</b>	Christ as the Head of the body is emphasized	The Church as the Body of Christ is emphasized
<b>Purpose</b>	Written to combat a heresy	Written to clarify theology and practice
<b>Tone</b>	More personal and <i>local</i> -church oriented	Less personal and probably a <i>circular</i> letter

Paul had used Ephesus as his base of operation for three years on his third missionary journey (Acts 19:8, 10; 20:31)—the longest he stayed anywhere.

### Ephesians 1:1-2 Greeting

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

**Ephesians 1:3-14** Created for God's Glory/Spiritual blessings in Christ

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in Christ,  
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,  
4 even as he chose us in Him  
before the foundation of the world,  
that we should be holy and blameless before Him.  
In love  
5 he predestined us for adoption as sons  
through Jesus Christ  
according to the purpose of his will,  
6 to the praise of his glorious grace,  
with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

7 In him  
we have redemption through his blood,  
the forgiveness of our trespasses,  
according to the riches of his grace,  
8 which he lavished upon us,  
in all wisdom and insight  
9 making known to us the mystery of his will,  
according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ  
10 as a plan for the fullness of times,  
to unite all things in him,  
things in heaven and things on earth.  
11 In him  
we have obtained an inheritance,  
having been predestined according to the purpose of him  
who works all things according to the counsel of his will,  
12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ  
might be to the praise of His glory.

13 In him  
you also,  
when you heard the message of truth,  
the gospel of your salvation,  
and believed in him,  
were sealed  
with the promised Holy Spirit,  
14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance  
until we acquire possession of it,  
to the praise of his glory.

Focus on the \_\_\_\_\_

- 1
- 2
- 3

*Salvation Determined by the Father—*

Focus on the \_\_\_\_\_

- 4
- 5
- 6

*Salvation Provided by the Son—*

Focus on the \_\_\_\_\_

- 7

*Salvation Secured by the Spirit—*

- I. The Provision of Spiritual Blessing 1:3
- II. The Basis of Spiritual Blessing 1:4-14
  - A. Chosen in eternity past by the Father for His praise and our benefit 1:4-6
    1. Activity: Chosen before Creation 1:4
    2. Cause: Predestined to Sonship 1:5
    3. Goal: Praise of the Glory of His Grace 1:6
  - B. Redeemed in historical past by the Son for God's praise and our benefit 1:7-12
    1. Redemptions: Forgiveness of sins 1:7
    2. Wisdom: Mystery of His Will 1:8-10
    3. Inheritance: Possession of God 1:11
    4. Goal: Praise of His Glory 1:12
  - B. Protected in personal past for eternal future by the Spirit for God's praise and our benefit 1:13-14
    1. Activity: Sealed with the Spirit 1:13
    2. Duration: Sealed until Redemption 1:14a
    3. Goal: Praise of His Glory 1:14b