

Sunday School Lesson

December 4, 2022

Spiritual Blessings in Jesus Christ

Ephesians 1:3-14

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Questions for Us Today

December 4, 2022

2

Do you understand God's promises for us?

Do you believe in God's promises for us?

Sunday School Lesson Objectives

December 4, 2022

3

To understand the purpose of this letter (particularly this segment) by the Apostle Paul, written for the church at Ephesus, other congregations and us.

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 1

December 4, 2022

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Paul

**3. Points of Information:
Ephesus, Ephesians**

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

December 4, 2022

4. Lesson Context

5. Lesson Text

6. Remember This

Points of Information – Paul

The Apostle Paul was originally known as Saul of Tarsus. Tarsus was then (and still is) a large Mediterranean city in Turkey. Saul of Tarsus is not to be confused with King Saul (of Israel) in the Old Testament. However, both men (with this name) descended from the Hebrew Tribe of Benjamin. 1 Samuel 9:1-2; Romans 11:1.

Paul was a Jew and a Roman citizen by birth. He studied under a well-known professor, Gamaliel. Acts 22:3. Like his teacher and his father, Saul/Paul was a Pharisee. Acts 23:6.

Points of Information – Paul

Before his conversion on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:3-19), Saul/Paul was a zealous believer in God who felt wholly justified in his brutal persecution of Christian men and women. Acts 9:1-2; Galatians 1:13.

A young Saul stood by, guarding the clothes of those who stoned Stephen (the first Christian martyr) to death and approving this murder. Acts 7:58—8:1a.

Points of Information – Paul

The Apostle Paul was a tentmaker by trade. Acts 18:3. This vocation enabled him to support himself and to have a transportable means of making a living during his extensive travels.

8

In addition to being a prolific writer, Paul was a powerful preacher who traveled great distances (in three missionary journeys, by land and water) to spread the Gospel of Christ Jesus and to establish numerous churches. He called himself “an apostle to the Gentiles.” Romans 11:13.

Points of Information – Ephesus

The ancient city of Ephesus was a large commercial, political and religious center. It was the site of a huge temple for Artemis (Diana), the fertility goddess. This shrine was considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the [ancient] World. This temple was a key site for tourism and therefore income for the city.

9

The site of ancient Ephesus still exists today, in the nation of Turkey. It is an archeological trove that is a popular tourist destination.

Points of Information – Ephesus

The Apostle Paul visited the ancient city of Ephesus at least a couple of times. He ultimately remained there for three years. He subsequently sent Timothy to Ephesus to succeed him.

Acts 19:10; 20:17, 31; 1 Timothy 1:3.

Points of Information – Ephesians

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter of encouragement and instruction while he was imprisoned (under house arrest) in Rome. This is one of the four letters known as the Captivity (Prison) Epistles in the New Testament. The others are Colossians, Philippians and Philemon.

11

Christ Jesus had words of compliment, reprimand and instruction for the church at Ephesus, in the first of seven letters to churches. Revelation 2:1-7.

Spiritual Blessings in Jesus Christ

Lesson Context - 1

Under house arrest in Rome, the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus to encourage them and instruct them further in the faith.

12

After formally re-introducing himself in Verse 1 and giving a warm greeting in Verse 2, the Apostle Paul launches into his message.

Spiritual Blessings in Jesus Christ

Lesson Context - 2

The Apostle Paul was emphatic in letting the people know how and why they had been chosen by God and how it was now being revealed to them – especially regarding the Lordship of Christ Jesus.

Spiritual Blessings in Jesus Christ

Text – UMI Outline #1

Ephesians 1:3-6

God Blessed Us

Ephesians 1:3-4 (NLT)

All praise to God, the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes.

Ephesians 1:5-6

God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ.

So we praise God for the glorious grace He has poured out on us who belong to His dear Son.

Spiritual Blessings in Jesus Christ

Text – UMI Outline #2

Ephesians 1:7-12

Jesus Christ Redeemed

Ephesians 1:7-8

He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins.

He has showered His kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.

Ephesians 1:9-10

God has now revealed to us His mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill His own good pleasure.

And this is the plan: At the right time He will bring everything together under the authority of Christ – everything in Heaven and earth.

Ephesians 1:11-12

Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for He chose us in advance, and He makes everything work out according to His plan.

God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God.

Spiritual Blessings in Jesus Christ

Text – UMI Outline #3

21

Ephesians 1:13-14

The Holy Spirit Sealed Our Salvation

Ephesians 1:13-14

And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago.

The Spirit is God's guarantee that He will give us the inheritance He promised and that He has purchased us to be His own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify Him.

Remember this:

God has chosen us to be His people.

God loves us so much that He sent His Son to pay the price for our sins.

Remember this:

Jesus is Lord – now and forever.

Bibliography - 1

Africa Bible Commentary. Tokunboh Adeyemo, General Editor.

Bible Handbook, The.

Bible Knowledge Commentary, The – New Testament. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, General Editors.

Bibliography - 2

Ephesians (study guide). Andrew T. LePeau & Phyllis J. LePeau.

Holman Bible Handbook.

Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary.

Bibliography - 3

Holy Imagination. Judy Fentress-Williams.

**In Search of Paul. John Dominic Crossan
and Jonathan L. Reed.**

Lands of the Bible Today, The. Dave Branon.

Bibliography – 4

Life Application Bible Commentary –
Ephesus.

Life Application Study Bible.

MacArthur Bible Commentary, The. John
MacArthur.

Bibliography - 5

Precepts for Living [UMI]. Vince L. Bantu [Editor].

Spirituality According to Paul. Rodney Reeves.

Tony Evans Study Bible, The.

Writings of the New Testament, The. Luke Timothy Johnson.