



# Before the Foundation of the World

Ephesians is built around the concept of the church as the body of Christ. 1.22-23 says Jesus is the head of the body - manifesting His will through the function of the body. The church is not an organization - it is people. In Ephesians 1 - Paul goes back into eternity past - show how God master planned the church before the world began.

## I. WHY THIS IS SO IMPORTANT

### II. EPHESIANS 1.3 - THE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN THE HEAVENLIES

- A. 1.3a - Who is the blessing for? *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*
- B. 1.3b - Who gives the blessings? ...*who has blessed...* God who loves to give.
  - 1. James 1.17 - *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,...*
  - 2. Romans 8.28 - *all things work together for good for those who are called according to his purpose.*
- C. 1.3c - Who is blessed? *Us.* (Believers)
- D. 1.3e - With what have believers been blessed? *with every spiritual blessing.*
  - 1. Prayer - *The Spirit intercedes,* Romans 8.27.
  - 2. Love - *God's love has been poured into our hearts,* Romans 5.5.
  - 3. Peace - *My peace I give to you...let not your heart be troubled,* John 14.27.
  - 4. Joy - *Jesus left his joy in you, so that your joy may be full,* John 15.11.
  - 5. Strength - *I can do all things through Jesus who strengthens me,* Philippians 4.13.
  - 6. **God has already dispensed with every spiritual blessing.** 2 Peter 1.3 - *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness.*
- E. 1.3f - Where are our blessings? *in the heavenlies.* These are realized by *walking by the Spirit,* Galatians 5.16-24.
- F. 1.3c - How do we receive these blessings? *in Christ.* All that is His is yours.

### III. HOW THIS IMPACTS YOUR LIFE

- A. 1.4a - You are part of something planned before the foundation of the world.
  - 1. This does not mean God chose some to go to heaven, while selecting everyone else to go to hell.
  - 2. John 3.16-18 - esp. 3.18 - *whoever believes is not condemned...*
  - 3. Matthew 22.1-4 - Jesus said people must accept the invitation.
- B. So then, *who did God chose?* See 1.3 - Those who are *in Christ.*
  - 1. John 1.12 - God chose those who have accepted Jesus.

### IV. CONCLUSION

- A. The resources that are available to you are unlimited. See Ephesians 3.20
- B. What we've talked about today are available only to those who are *in Christ.*
- C. Have you found him?