

BECOMING  
A WOMAN  
OF *grace*

# Welcome

Please have your bibles

open at

Eph 1: 1- 14



## EPHESIANS

One of four shorter epistles written by the apostle Paul while he was in prison (AD.60-63), the others being **Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon**. Ephesians shares many similarities in style and content with Colossians; it may have been written about the same time and delivered by the same person.

**EPHESUS**; was a large and important city on the west coast of Asia Minor where the apostle Paul founded a church. A number of factors contributed to the prominence which Ephesus enjoyed.



**Map 7**  
**PAUL'S FIRST AND SECOND JOURNEYS**  
 (Acts 13–14; 15:39–18:22)

- First missionary journey, with Barnabas and Mark (c. A.D. 46–48)
- Second missionary journey, with Silas (c. A.D. 49–52)

The first factor was economics.  
Another factor was size. Ephesus was  
the largest city in the province, having  
a population of perhaps 300,000  
people.

## Structure of the Epistle.

Ephesians divides naturally into two halves: a lofty theological section (1-3), An appeal to adapt one's life to one's faith (4:1) marks the transition to the second half of the epistle and a section of ethical appeal and application (4-6).

## Authorship and Date.

Ephesians was intended as a circular letter, or "**open letter**," to a number of communities surrounding Ephesus. Paul is known to have used circular letters on occasion (Col 4:16), and the circular theory would account for the general tone of the letter. Ephesians and Colossians were delivered by Tychicus. (Eph 6:21; Col 4:7).

John Mackay, former President of Princeton Theological Seminary. 'To this book I owe my life', he wrote. He went on to explain how in July 1903 as a lad of fourteen he experienced through reading Ephesians a 'boyish rapture in the Highland hills' and made 'a passionate protestation to Jesus Christ among the rocks in the starlight'. Here is his own account of what happened to him: 'I saw a new world ... Everything was new ... I had a new outlook, new experiences, new attitudes to other people. I loved God. Jesus Christ became the centre of everything ... I had been 'quickenened'; I was really alive.'

## Every spiritual blessing - 1:3-14

In the original Greek these twelve verses constitute a single complex sentence. As Paul writes the words flow onto the paper in a continuous cascade. He neither pauses for breath, nor punctuates his words with full stops. Commentators have searched for metaphors vivid enough to convey the impact of this opening outburst of adoration.

‘We enter this epistle through a magnificent gateway’.

It is ‘a golden chain’ of many links, or ‘a kaleidoscope of dazzling lights and shifting colors’.

It can be likened to ‘a snowball tumbling down a hill, picking up volume as it descends’.

‘This rhapsodic adoration is comparable to the overture of an opera which contains the successive melodies that are to follow’.

It is ‘like the preliminary flight of the eagle, rising and wheeling round, as though for a while uncertain what direction in his boundless freedom he shall take’.

‘A gateway, a golden chain, a kaleidoscope, a snowball, an operatic overture and the flight of an eagle: all these metaphors in their different ways describe the impression of color, movement and grandeur which the sentence makes on the reader’s mind.’

John Stott

First, God the Father is the source or origin of every blessing which we enjoy. His initiative is set forth plainly, for he is himself the subject of almost every main verb in these verses. It is he who 'has blessed us' (verse 3), who 'chose us' (verse 4) and 'destined us ... to be his sons' (verse 5), who 'freely bestowed on us' his grace (verse 6),

literally ‘graced us with his grace’), indeed ‘lavished’ his grace upon us (verse 8), who also ‘made known to us’ his will and purpose which he ‘set forth in Christ ... to unite all things’ (verses 9–10). Further, he ‘accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will’ (verse 11).

Question?

How many Presbyterians Elders does it take to  
change a light bulb?

Change...?

How many Calvinists does it take to change  
a light bulb?

None. It has already been predestined when the  
light bulb will be changed.

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will”

Eph 1:4-6

## TOTAL DEPRAVITY

### Biblical Evidence?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. John 1:1-5

## TOTAL DEPRAVITY

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

John 1:10-11

## TOTAL DEPRAVITY

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. (John 3:19-20)

## TOTAL DEPRAVITY

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. Luke 19:9-10:

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. (Matt 23:25-26)

## TOTAL DEPRAVITY

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Cor 4:4-5)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom 3:23)

## TOTAL DEPRAVITY

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world (Eph 2:1)

I once was lost but now I'm found was blind but now I see – *Amazing Grace*

## TOTAL DEPRAVITY

Total Depravity & Utter Depravity  
Civil Virtues

Sin is not tangential or peripheral,  
We are not sinners because we sin.

*We sin because we are sinners,  
it is in our nature.*

Original sin

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## Unconditional Election

Soteriology - salvation

Martin Luther said of Predestination

– **it lies at the Heart of the Church**

Most denominations

developed a doctrine of predestination

Predestination is a biblical word

and a biblical concept

## Unconditional Election

Question 20. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the condition of sin and misery?

God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, and did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the condition of sin and misery, and to bring them into a condition of salvation by a Redeemer.

Acts 13:48; Eph 1:4-5; 2 Thess 2:13-14

Gen 3:15; 17:7; Ex 19:5-6; Jer 31:31-34;

Mat 20:28; 1Cor 11:25; Heb 9:15

## Unconditional Election

### Eph 1:3-13

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world ... In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will  
In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will

In its most basic sense predestination has to do with the question of *destiny*. When we add the prefix *pre* to *destination*, we speak of something that takes place prior to or before the destination. The *pre* of *predestination* relates to the question of time. *In biblical categories predestination clearly takes place, not only before we believe in Christ, and not only before we were even born, but from all eternity, before the universe was ever created.*

The agent of predestination is God. In his sovereignty he predestinates. Human beings are the object of his predestination. In short, predestination refers to God's sovereign plan for human beings, decreed by him in eternity. Often the term *election* is used as a synonym for *predestination*.

The term *election* refers specifically to one aspect of divine predestination: God's choosing of certain individuals to be saved. The term *election* has a positive connotation, referring to a benevolent predestination that results in the salvation of those who are elect.

In summary we may define *predestination* broadly as follows: From all eternity, God set his love and affection on those he elected unto everlasting life and in the course of their life called them to Himself in such a way that a supernatural act takes place in the heart bringing spiritual life and new birth.

## Conditional or Unconditional?

But the question which we often hear in connection with this concept is, does our individual lives have any bearing on God's election?

Does he take that prior knowledge of us into account when he makes his decision regarding election?

Conditional election is usually based on God's foreknowledge of human actions and responses.

The corridors of time  
This is often called the *prescient* view of election or predestination.

Rom 8:29-30: For those God foreknew he also predestined... And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

An individual has faith and they respond to the call of the Gospel, this God knows, and thus elects them.

But Paul had not expressed faith when he was called. He was lost and blind & dead.

- 1) Foreknowledge - Love and affection
- 2) Predestined
- 3) Called (external & internal)
- 4) Justified
- 5) Glorified

The Reformed view holds that we are **elected *unto* faith** and justification. Faith is a necessary condition for salvation, but not for election. **The prescient view makes faith a condition of election; Reformed theology sees faith as the result of election.** This is the fundamental difference between conditional election and unconditional election,

Reformed theologians understand the golden chain as follows: From all eternity God foreknew his elect. He had an idea of their identity in his mind before he created them. He foreknew them not only in the sense of having a prior idea of their personal identities, but also in the sense of foreloving them. When the Bible speaks of “knowing,” it often

distinguishes between a simple mental awareness of a person and a deep intimate love of a person. The Reformed view teaches that all whom God has foreknown, he has also predestined to be inwardly called, justified, and glorified. God sovereignly brings to pass the salvation of his elect.

**Eph 2:8-10;** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. not by works, so that no one can boast.

John 6:44: No one can come to me unless  
the Father who sent me draws him.

Questions?

Don't I choose him?

Don't I make a commitment?

## Acts 16:14-15

One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

## Acts 13:48

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.