

EPHESIANS: PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN CHRIST

A. Author: Paul

B. Background: Paul, writing from prison, directed his letter to Ephesus and the surrounding cities to encourage Christians to enjoy the privileges of their relationship with Christ while at the same time fulfilling their responsibilities as Christians.

C. Theme: Because we are saved, we have many blessings in Christ, but we also have the responsibility to live as those whom He has saved.

D. Outline:

1. THE PRIVILEGES OF THE CHRISTIAN (1:1-3:21)

- a. The Greeting (1:1-2)
- b. Spiritual Blessings in Christ (1:3-14)
- c. Prayer for Divine Resources in Their Lives (1:15-23)
- d. New Life in Christ (2:1-10)
- e. Reconciliation of the Gentiles (2:11-22)
- f. The Mystery of Gentile Heirs (3:1-13)
- g. The Mystery of God's Love and Power (3:14-21)

2. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHRISTIAN (4:1-6:20)

- a. Promote Unity and Spiritual Growth in the Church (4:1-16)
- b. Walk as a New Man (4:17-32)
- c. Walk in Love, Light, and Wisdom (5:1-21)

d. Set New Standards for the Home (5:22-6:9)

- Husbands & Wives (5:22-33)
- Children & Parents (6:1-4)
- Employers & Employees (6:5-9)

e. Clothe Yourself for Spiritual Battle (6:10-20)

- Belt of Truth
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Shoes of the Gospel of Peace
- Shield of Faith
- Helmet of Salvation
- Sword of the Spirit

3. CONCLUDING GREETINGS (6:21-24)

E. Real Life Lessons from Ephesians

1. We have riches in Christ that come as a result of being in relationship with Him.
2. Christianity is far more than religion; it is a relationship with God through Christ that changes our lives for the better.
3. Salvation was for all, both Jew and Gentile, and through the cross Jesus bridged the great divide between these two.
4. A "salvation" that changes nothing is probably not salvation at all.
5. Salvation must be lived out at home and in the workplace, as well as the church.
6. Spiritual battles must be fought with spiritual weapons.