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## Epistle to the Ephesians: The Christian's Spiritual Blessings (1.1-14)

- Covenant Evangelical Reformed Church
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### Chapter 1

1. Greetings (1.1, 2)
  - a. The author
    - i. He calls himself Paul
      - (1) The name "Paul": post conversion experience: "Saul" : pre-conversion experience
      - (2) His Jewish background (Acts 22.2 - 3)
        - (a) He is from the tribe of Benjamin
        - (b) He is the Hebrew of Hebrews: best breed of the Hebrews
        - (c) From the city of Tarsus, a city of Cilicia no mean city
        - (d) He was a tent-maker of goats hair .
      - (3) His training
        - (a) He sat under Gamaliel
        - (b) His zeal: Persecuted the church of God (Phil. 3.5-6)
        - (c) His righteousness of the law: blameless
    - ii. He is an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God
      - (1) He did not choose to be an apostle but he was an apostle according to God's sovereign will
      - (2) He was called to be an apostle on his way to Damascus (Acts 9.15)
  - b. The readers
    - i. Here we have the addressee: the saints in Ephesus and the faithful in Christ Jesus
    - ii. Christians are called saints - lit. "holy one"
    - iii. Christians are called faithful in Christ Jesus
      - (1) They have believed in Jesus Christ
      - (2) They have obeyed all the words of Christ
      - (3) They acknowledge Christ as the resurrected Lord
  - c. The greetings
    - i. "Grace be to you, and peace"
      - (1) Both are the blessings that we receive from Christ
      - (2) Grace - God's grace is God's unmerited favour in saving us & the power to save us
      - (3) Peace - We have been friends with God

- ii. "from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ"
      - (1) Both blessings come from the Father and Jesus Christ
      - (2) Grace and peace comes from God
- 2. Praise to God for His Blessings
  - a. Elected by the Father (1.3-6)
    - i. God has chosen us in eternity so that we become saints without blemish or faultless
    - ii. Chosen by the love of God the Father
    - iii. He has pre-determined or foreordained unto adoption of children
      - (1) We are adopted children by Jesus Christ
      - (2) Done according to the good pleasure of God's will
  - b. Redeemed by the Son (1.7-12)
    - i. Bought by the blood of Christ
      - (1) So that we are not our own but belong to Jesus Christ
      - (2) and thus we receive the forgiveness of our sins, not according to our merit but according to his grace
      - (3) Which he lavished upon us in wisdom and understanding
    - ii. He made known His will
      - (1) The word, "mystery" means what was first hidden but now revealed
      - (2) His will was first hidden but now revealed - that he will gather all things in Christ
    - iii. We obtain an inheritance
      - (1) The word, "predestinated" - determined before hand
      - (2) This inheritance was not earned in time but determined before hand
      - (3) All the works of God moves according to the counsel or plan of his own will to the praise of God
  - c. Sealed by the Holy Spirit (1.13-14)
    - i. This took place after we have believed the word of truth
    - ii. Who is the Holy Spirit?
      - (1) He is the Spirit of Promise (Acts 1.8)
      - (2) The Holy Spirit is the down-payment of our redemption