

## ***Introduction To Book Of Ephesians – 1:1-3***

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### **Introduction**

1. Bobby Valentine said, “Ephesians is a majestic writing, casting an inspiring vision of what it means to be the people of God in this fallen world. People of the renewed creation made one.”
2. Though it is relatively short, Ephesians is one of Paul’s finest efforts. In a few chapters he sets forth the magnificent scope of God’s plan for man’s redemption through Christ—and the effect this should have on each person “in Christ.”

### **I. The Author (1:1a)**

- a. Paul the apostle to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15)
  - i. Acts records three missionary journeys that Paul took in the Roman empire. In about 53 AD, Paul first arrived in Ephesus but didn’t remain (Acts 18:19-21). It was on his third missionary journey that Paul stayed for at least two years and saw the entire vast region of Asia evangelized (Acts 19:1-20).
  - ii. Paul begins his letter with two claims. (1) He is an apostle of Christ (2) through the will of God.

### **II. The Assembly/Church (1:1b-2)**

- a. Saint
  - i. The word saint means “one who has been set apart.” When we trust and obey Christ, we are taken out of “the world” and placed “in Christ.” The believer is in the world physically, but not of the world spiritually (John 17:14–16). It is a word used to describe the church not just individuals.
  - ii. How did they become saints? The answer is in two words: “faithful” and “grace.” They continued to believe, trust, and obey and God gave them grace (Ephesians 1:12-14,19).
- b. Grace
  - i. The word grace is used twelve times in Ephesians and refers to “the kindness of God toward undeserving people.” Grace brings us peace! It is the same word we know in the OT as Shalom which means more than just the absence of trouble. It means that which makes for a person’s highest good.

### **III. The Aim (1:3)**

- a. **The Source of Our Blessings** – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” God the Father has made us rich in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:7; 2:7; 1:8; 3:16; 2:4; 3:8).
- b. **The Scope of Our Blessings** – We have “every spiritual blessing.” The Father has given us every blessing of the Spirit, everything we need for a successful, satisfying Christian life.
- c. **The Sphere of Our Blessings** – “in the heavenly places in Christ.” The Christian’s life is centered in heaven. His citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20); his name is written in heaven (Luke 10:20); his Father is in heaven; and his attention and affection ought to be centered on the things of heaven (Col. 3:1ff).