



Saint James AME Church

588 Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Blvd.

Newark, NJ 07102

www.experiencesaintjames.com

Rev. Ronald L. Slaughter, Senior Pastor

Women's Bible Study

Rev. Theresa Andrews, Minister to Women

First Lady Kyla Slaughter, Women's Ministry Advisor

Tuesdays at 6:30 PM

May 5, 2020

Rev. Theresa Andrews, Facilitator

Subject: Our Identity in Christ Jesus

Book: Ephesians 1: 1-23

**Ephesians 1 New International Version
(NIV)**

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To God's holy people in Ephesus,^[a] the faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he^[b] predestined us for adoption to sonship^[c] through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his

pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he^[d] made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹In him we were also chosen,^[e] having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his

glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

¹⁵For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit^[f] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹and his incomparably great

power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²²And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

New International Version (NIV)

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Subject of Consideration:

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter when he was in prison between A.D. 60 and 63. Many biblical scholars believe that Paul spent two or three years in Ephesus. He was successful with spreading the gospel. Paul shares some rich biblical truths in Ephesians. In this Chapter he reminds the believers of our new identity in Christ Jesus. Paul gave this letter to Tychicus to distribute. He wanted believers to mature in Christ Jesus. In

order to live out our lives victoriously, we must remember and understand who we are in Christ Jesus.

In Chapter one, Paul tells us that we give praises to God because we are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus. Then, he proceeds to name some of the spiritual blessings. He includes that we as Christians are chosen, regarded as holy and blameless, adopted, saved, loved, redeemed, forgiven, brought under the authority of Christ Jesus, lavished with grace, sealed by the Holy Spirit until Christ Jesus returns and we have a glorious inheritance. These are spiritual blessings that became ours when we received Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Then, Paul closes in thanksgiving and prayer for the believers. He prays that Almighty God would give them wisdom and revelation that they may know God better. He prays also that believers would know the hope and glorious inheritance and power that they have. Lastly, Paul asks that believers would understand that Christ Jesus is the head of the Church.

Questions to Consider:

1. Who has blessed us with spiritual blessings in the heavenly realms?

2. What are some of our spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus?

3. What is the role of Christ Jesus with regard to our spiritual blessings?

4. What is the role of the Holy Spirit concerning our spiritual blessings?

5. Why is it important that you know who you are in Christ?

Homework Assignment

-Reflect on our spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus.

-Spend time in praise and worship to God for God's love and grace.

-Read Ephesians 2.

Thank you Sisters in Christ for sharing this journey of study. Let us continue to grow in God and enjoy fellowship with each other. Remember to pass it on.