

**GOSPEL** of *Grace*  
FELLOWSHIP

***Ephesians 1:1-3***

**An Apostle, Saints, and Grace**

*by Bob DeWaay*

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**Christ's Apostle Addresses Saints**

**Ephesians 1:1 (NET)**  
From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus.

- Paul was commissioned by Jesus Christ Himself and speaks bindingly for God
- The saints and the faithful are the same people
- "In Christ" and "In Him" are thematic in Ephesians

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**Grace and Peace**

**Ephesians 1:2 (ESV)**  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The Greek greeting of *chairein* is adapted to *charis* (grace) while *eire\_ne\_* is Greek for peace which is Hebrew *shalom*
- This is more than a greeting or a prayer but reminds us of God's promises (see Num. 6:22-27 & Is. 9:6 'Prince of Peace')

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**God Who Keeps His Promises  
Is Declared Blessed**

**Ephesians 1:3 (ESV)**  
**Blessed** be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

- The Gr has *euloge\_tos* which is *Berakah* in the OT which is a Hebrew benediction
- See Luke 1:68 – Zechariah **blesses** the God of Israel who has visited His people

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**Implications and Applications**

- God has spoken bindingly through Christ and His apostles
- All who are truly in Christ are saints
- Peace with God is only through faith in Christ
- All terms must be defined biblically

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### Who Is An Apostle?

#### **2 Corinthians 11:13 (ESV)**

For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

- Rev. 2:2 – Christ commends the Ephesian church for rejecting false apostles
- Many claimed to be ‘super-apostles’ who were in fact ‘pseudo-apostles’
- Many false apostles and prophets exist today who target Christians

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### We Must Have Definitions!

#### **Ephesians 2:19, 20 (NASB)**

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, **having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,

- These apostles are true and serve as the foundation (see [cicministry.org](http://cicministry.org) Issue 66)
- Valid definitions make communication possible

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### Who Is a Saint?

#### **Acts 26:10 (NASB)**

And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; **not only did I lock up many of the saints** in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them.

- Paul persecuted any who trusted in Christ
- We must consider the context (vss 9-18)

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### True Peace With God

**Romans 5:1 (NASB)**

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

- This does not mean 'inner tranquility'
- This does not mean 'world peace'
- This DOES mean reconciled enemies who were saved from God's wrath
- See Romans 5:6-10

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### Repent of Being God's Enemy

**Acts 17:30, 31 (NASB)**

"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

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