

Ephesians 1: 1-14.

1. *“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:*
2. *Grace to you and peace from God our father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*
3. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*
4. *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love,*
5. *having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,*
6. *to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*
7. *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*
8. *which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,*
9. *having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,*
10. *that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth – in Him.*
11. *In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,*
12. *that we should be to the praise of His glory.*
13. *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,*
14. *who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” (NKJV)*

'WHAT'S IN A NAME/s?'

Reading:- Ephesians 1: 1-14.

Text:- Vv.1-3. - ***“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God. To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”***

1. INTRODUCTION.

Once upon a time there was such an art as letter writing!

Paper, pen, ink. - Name and address in the top right hand corner. The person to whom you were writing on the left hand side. Then 'Dear John,' - The reason for writing, General comments and or questions, and signed, 'Yours truly', and signed, 'Don'. -Folded, put in an envelope with the address of the person you are sending it to, your name and address on the back, and a stamp on the top right hand corner

Such methods are now regarded as 'snail mail'.

We have 'progressed' to paperless methods as email, sms, texts, etc. - Instant! Spontaneous! Short! Abbreviated! Emojies!- All these via our computers, lap-tops, smart phones or ipads.

Means of communication changed rapidly! But the Word of the LORD does not! - That is a great comfort for God’s people and a sure foundation for all societies.

2. NAMES ARE IMPORTANT! [Especially Biblical names]

Each of here today have a name, chosen by our parents because they had some meaning.

Some people change their name for something they like personally.

But when the Apostle Paul is inspired by the Holy Spirit to write this letter to the Church at

Ephesus he is very specific. He wants them to know Who he is, whose he is, with what capacity he writes, under whose authority, to whom he is writing and what their status is before God.

Every word is important! Every name has meaning! His hearers should rejoice! We should rejoice!

V. 1, 1). From “*Paul*” - How amazed he must have been every time he wrote that word!
“*an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God*” -

2). “*to the saints ..., and faithful in Christ Jesus:*”

3. THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR CONNECTION TO THOSE NAMES.

V. 2, 1). “*Grace and peace*” - The order and meaning is vital for the Christian!

2). “*from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*”

4. THE BLESSINGS THAT FLOW FROM THAT CONNECTION.

V. 3, 1). - First Paul “*praises and thanks “the God and Father of...”*”

2). - Then he begins to say what they have done “*for us in Christ*” - “*every spiritual blessing*”

3). - Where? “*in heavenly places*” - The saved sinner 'lives' in two worlds!

4). - Then he enumerates this amazing list of what they are.

5. ARE YOU CONNECTED?

- There are just two sorts of people here today and in the world.
- The connected! - And those not connected!
- The BIG question is:- Are YOU connected?
- If you are, Rejoice in the LORD always.
- If not, then now is the time to turn to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and plead with HIM to take away your sin and give you a new heart with faith to believe and rely upon all that Christ has accomplished on behalf of HIS people.

Amen! - Don McMurray – 5/12/2017.