

# Ephesians

Transformed by Grace, Empowered by Peace

## Study 1

The Grace of God in Election and Predestination

Ephesians 1:1-6

### Question Types

- 1) **Fill in the blanks** (The exact answers in the exact wording can be found from the slides in the lecture video)
- 2) **Objective questions** (The exact answers mentioned by Dr Peter, or listed on the slides)
- 3) **Comprehension questions** (The answers may be mentioned in the video, but could be based on comprehension of a Bible passage)
- 4) **Discussion questions** (Subjective questions open to the floor to discuss)
- 5) **Reflection questions** (Subjective personal responses, to encourage personal reflection and engagement)

### Ephesians 1:1-6

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, 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, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

## A) Introduction and Structure

1. **Fill in the blanks. Based on the video lecture, what is the high level structure of the book of Ephesians?**

<b>Title</b>	<b>The Glory and Grace of God</b>			<b>The Peace of God in the church</b>		
<b>Nature</b>	<b>Theological</b>			<b>Practical</b>		
<b>Chapters</b>	Ephesians 1	Ephesians 2	Ephesians 3	Ephesians 4	Ephesians 5	Ephesians 6
<b>Description</b>	<b>Who God is and what he has done for us in Christ</b>			<b>How we should live because of what He has done for us</b>		

**B) Why Doctrine is Important**

2. a) **Comprehension question. Based on the video lecture, what is the definition of doctrine?**

Doctrine is a body of teaching derived from Biblical revelation about who God is, who we are, and why the world exists.

b) **Objective question. Based on the video lecture, what is doctrine for?**

- A. Righteousness
- B. Purpose**
- C. Knowledge
- D. Hope**
- E. Action**
- F. Holiness

c) **Discussion question. Briefly discuss: How does doctrine affect our actions?**

**C) God’s Grace and Peace to us**

**Ephesians 1:1-2**

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.

**3. Comprehension question. What does the word “peace” (“shalom”) represent?**

- Perfection
- Prosperity
- Total satisfaction in life
- Natural gifts fruitfully employed

**D) Every Spiritual Blessing - Doctrine of Election and Predestination**

**Ephesians 1:3-4**

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, 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

**4. a) Comprehension question. Where is our spiritual blessing found?**

In heavenly places.

**b) Comprehension question. What is the definition of “blessedness” / “blessing” based on Matthew 5? (Also found in the video lecture)**

- Poor in spirit
- Mourn
- Meek
- Hunger and thirst for righteousness
- Merciful
- Pure in heart
- Peacemakers
- Persecuted for righteousness sake

5. Fill in the blanks. What are the spiritual blessings given to us based on Ephesians 1:3-14.

Spiritual Blessing	Reference
Election	Eph. 1:4
Predestination	Eph. 1:5
Adoption	Eph. 1:5-6
Redemption	Eph. 1:7-8
Knowledge of His grand plan	Eph. 1:9-10
Inheritance	Eph. 1:11-12
Sealing with Holy Spirit	Eph. 1:13-14

6. a) Comprehension question. Based on the video lecture, in simple terms, what is the difference between election and predestination?

Election is selection.

Predestination is selection for a purpose.

- b) Comprehension question. Based on Ephesians 1:4, what have we been chosen for? [To what purpose?]

We have been chosen to “be holy and blameless before him in love”.

- b) Comprehension question. Based on Ephesians 1:5, what have we been predestinated to?

We have been predestinated “to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself”.

7. a) Comprehension question. What is the end goal when God elected and predestinated us? [This phrase was mentioned 3 times in our passage]

It is for the “praise of His glory”.

- b) Discussion question. How is God glorified through our election and predestination?

8. a) Reflection question. In what ways do we try to find our own glory?

b) Reflection question. Instead of seeking our own glory, we should be seeking God’s glory. How do we practically do this?

9. Comprehension question. What is the practical application of understanding our election?

- Comfort
- Confidence
- Praise
- Evangelism

10. Comprehension question. With our understanding of election, do we still need to preach the Gospel? Why? Refer to 2 Tim. 2:10.

God has given us the privilege and honour to be the vessels through whom the Gospel is preached. God’s choice/selection/election/predestination does not negate our responsibility to preach Christ as the only way of salvation.

#### Takeaway

- A. God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

- B. God has chosen us to be holy and blameless before Him in love.**
- C. God has predestined us to the adoption of sons.**
- D. The end goal of our election and predestination is for the praise of God's glory.**

### Case Study

#### Case 1 – Spiritual Blessings?

There was a new church in Sungei Besi which was the talk of the town. They had a dynamic young pastor who captivated the audience with his mesmerizing oratory skills.

More significantly, he preached that obedience to God will bring considerable blessing into the lives of the members. He preached that God has only just begun to bless us, the best is yet to come with abundant finances and great health with healing from diseases in this life now, not later on. It was up to the members to be faithful to appropriate those blessings. God offers them for everyone by grace but it would depend on their faith. The more they trusted God the more He will accept them and make them whole. The more they had faith the more the Lord will forgive their sins.

When someone pointed out that Ephesians 1 stated that we were chosen and predestined before the foundation of the world, he countered that that referred to the church in general and not to individuals. For individuals it all boils down to how much faith they had.

The church grew by leaps and bounds and they even had miracle healings and prophecies by the pastor. He even prophesied that he would be the pastor to lead a revival of the whole of KL.

1. What are some aspects of this pastor's preaching that might give you concern?

A) Over realized eschatology, based on signs

B) Works based gospel - The atonement act for salvation was accomplished on the cross. We are forgiven by believing and accepting Jesus' finished work. This pastor however is saying it is all based on how much faith we have to appropriate the blessings

C) Man centered focus, not on the grace of God. Not we in terms of being part of a greater purpose for God's glory here, but we have God on hand to serve us and give us blessings and this is based on our faith.

**2. Why did this church grow so rapidly?**

People were seeking health and wealth, not God (2 Tim 4: 1-4)

**3. Do you think he is actually preaching the Gospel?**

No. Prosperity/false teaching

**4. In the long run what are the risks to the spiritual lives of the members who attended this church?**

They will be disappointed, disillusioned, depressed.

Not saved. Only the truth in the whole counsel of God can bring revelation, repentance and salvation. (John 14:6)

