

## All Things Are In Christ

Sunday, March 4<sup>TH</sup>, 1990

### Ephesians 1:1-4

I'm going to be speaking today from the Book of Ephesians. This is Paul's epistle to the church at Ephesus. This Book is called the Book of Ephesians. I wish that you would get a Bible and open it to Ephesians Chapter 1. I am going to be dealing verse by verse, Lord willing, with the first 14 verses of the First Chapter of Ephesians. I think it would be very profitable to you. The Title of this message is: "All Things Are In Christ."

While you are finding the scriptures, let me make a few opening comments. If we have not discovered, and it hasn't been revealed to us, that the Lord Jesus Christ and Him crucified, is the foundation of the whole Bible, then we read the Bible with no profit. If that hasn't been revealed to you or to me that Jesus Christ and Him crucified is the whole foundation, the essence, the substance, and the summary of this Bible, (*"To Him give all the prophets witness,"*) then we have read the Bible with no profit. There is absolutely no benefit to us and our religion is vain.

Actually, what knowledge we have of this sacred Book in that Day of Judgment will only add to our misery and add to our condemnation because we have missed the key of knowledge. Without Christ and Him crucified, a man's religion is like heaven without the Son. Can you imagine heaven without the Son? All would be darkness and death. That is religion without Christ.

Religion without Christ and Him crucified is like a lamp without oil; it is useless. Religion without Christ is like a clock without hands or a compass without a needle. Without Christ crucified, we have no forgiveness of sins. We have no comfort in the time of trouble. We have no strength in death. We have no atonement in judgment and we have no Mediator with God.

The scripture says, *"We have one Mediator between God and men and that is the man Christ Jesus."* All that a Holy God has for a sinner, (and that is what we are, guilty sinners), is in Christ Jesus alone. All that God has for a sinner is in Christ (and that is true). The scripture says that in Colossians 2, *"In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."*

Can you imagine all the fullness of God? Think about that; all the fullness of God, and all that God has, all that God gives and all that God is, all of God dwells in Jesus Christ. *"All the fullness of God dwells in Christ and you are complete in Him."* In John 3:35, the scripture says; *"The Father loves the Son."* I've said that so many times on this telecast; *"The Father loves the Son and hath given all things into His hands. He that believeth on*

*the Son of God hath life. He that believeth not the Son of God, the wrath of God abideth on him.*”

It is not right, it is not fair, it is not true and we must not tell men everywhere that God is in love with them when He is not. The scripture says, *“The Father loveth the Son.”* Do the Words mean anything? In John 3:35 and 36 it says, *“The Father loveth the Son and hath given all things into His hands. He that believeth on the Son hath life.”* He that has life has love. *“He that believeth not the Son, the wrath of God abideth on him.”* In Romans 8:39, it says; *“The love of God is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

When the flood came, there was no mercy, no love and no deliverance except in the Ark. Outside the Ark there was wrath, judgment and death. When the manslayer accidentally killed someone and fled, he had to flee to the city of refuge. The only place of safety was within the city. The safety was not in wondering around outside somewhere, claiming that he was protected, loved and cared for. He wasn't, he was in trouble. When he got inside the city, he was under the protective care of the High Priest.

God said to Israel, *“I will dwell between the cherubim's on the mercy seat and there I will meet you and I will commune with you at the mercy seat.”* My friends, there will not be one voice among the millions in heaven that will not be singing praises to Jesus Christ. There will not be one voice among the millions or billions, a number that cannot be numbered in heaven; there will not be one voice that will not be singing praises to Jesus Christ. This is the song of heaven, *“Unto Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood and hath made us Kings and Priests unto God. Unto Him be the glory both now and forever, Amen”*

I'm talking about every voice. The scripture says, *“Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess in heaven, on earth and under the earth, that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”* Do you understand what I am saying?

Men can believe what they want to. They can go where they please. They can listen to whomever they please. I'm telling you what this Book says. The very foundation of this Book is Christ and Him crucified. Every promise is in Christ. Every promise of God is in Christ, yea and amen. Outside of Christ there is nothing. This is the message of the Book, Christ and Him crucified. *“All things are in Christ.”*

Look at Ephesians 1, this phrase is used about ten times in this chapter : *“In Him, in Christ, and of Christ.”* It is used in these 14 verses about ten times. Everything is in Him. Notice verse 1; *“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ.”* God's servants are not fond of titles. You will never find one taking a title unto himself. David said, *“Holy and*

*Reverend is God's name.*" Paul never called himself Dr. Paul, Bishop Paul, or Right-Reverend Paul, just Paul.

Somebody said, "The only man that really deserved a Doctor's degree in the ministry, wouldn't wear it, and that was Paul. He said, *"I am an apostle of Jesus Christ."* There are no apostles today. An apostle had to have seen the Lord and received His message directly from the Lord. Paul said, "I am an apostle by the will of God. God put me in the ministry." God gave him the message. He didn't learn it from men; God taught him the message.

He is writing to the saints. My friend, what is a saint? A saint is any true believer. A person is not a saint because he has been canonized by a certain group of people. He is not a saint because he has done some marvelous and unusual miracle proven several hundred years after he is dead. Every believer is a saint, because every believer is sanctified in Christ. Every believer is a saint and every child of God is a saint. It doesn't matter if you are young, old, male or female. Every believer is a saint. He is writing to the saints, the believers that are at Ephesus, to the faithful in Christ Jesus. Read verse one, *"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus."*

You know, the Bible is addressed to believers. The Bible is not addressed to men in general, except judgment. Judgment is addressed to the unbeliever. Judgment is addressed to the natural man. All the promises of God in Christ are addressed to believers. This Book is written to believers, the saints and the sanctified in Christ Jesus, to the faithful who are in Christ Jesus. That is what I said a moment ago; everything is in Him and they are in Him.

Read verse two, *"Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."* Watch this carefully; grace always precedes peace. Someone wrote one time:

Grace, how good, how great, how free  
Grace, how easy to be found,  
Only let your misery in the Savior's blood be drowned.  
Grace first inscribed my name in God's eternal book  
Grace gave me to the Lamb who all my sorrows took.  
Grace taught my soul to pray  
Grace made my eyes ore flow.  
Grace has kept me to this day  
And grace will not let me go.

For grace will complete what grace begins  
To save me from sorrow and sin,  
The work that God's grace undertakes  
Eternal mercy will never forsake.

Grace comes before peace. Man cannot have peace with God until he partakes of the grace of God. This is the grace of forgiveness, the grace of God in Christ Jesus. "*Grace and peace to you.*"

Where does grace come from? Grace comes from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. What the Father does, the Son does and the Spirit does. What the Father purposes the Son purchases and the Spirit applies. God is manifested as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Yet, our God is one.

I want you to watch this. In verses 3 through 6 you have the work of the Father in the redemption of a sinner. In verses 7 through 12 you have the work of the Son. In verses 13 through 14 you have the work of the Holy Spirit. Let me show you that. Will you look at it?

Look at verse 3 as He defines the purpose, the will, and the work of the Father in the redemption of a sinner. "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.*"

What does "*bless God*" mean? It means to praise God. It means the doxology. It means to praise His name, to bless Him because He is God, to bless Him because He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It means to bless Him because He has blessed us. "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who hath, (that is past tense, already) blessed us.*" God has blessed us.

Paul starts where he is. He says, "God has blessed me." Paul, what has God blessed you with? "He has blessed me with all spiritual blessings." This is not material blessings and physical blessings or worldly, carnal blessings.

I wish that people weren't so taken up with this old world. Solomon tried all of it like no man before or since. He came to the conclusion that it is all vanity. All of your big houses, and all of your fine clothes, your satin, your royalty, and all your social life; they are all vanity. These too shall pass away. In our day, people have the idea that you have "made it" if you can wear a diamond ring, a Rolex watch, drive a Mercedes, live in a ten-room house and have money in the bank.

That doesn't mean anything; it is all going to go back to the dust. Paul said, "*The Father has blessed me with spiritual blessings.*" I'm not talking about blessings in my car in the garage, my job or in this old decaying body or in this house that I live in. It is in the heavenly places that God has blessed me. At His right hand I have a Saviour. I have a Redeemer. I have a Mediator who gives me justification, sanctification, righteousness and redemption. I'd rather wear patches on my trousers and know Christ than to wear the finest suits that money can buy. I would rather do this than to not know the Son of God.

I hear these false preachers saying that God wants you to be healthy. They say that God wants you to be rich and popular. That is not so! God Almighty wills for His chosen people to know Christ. It doesn't matter if you are poor or whether you live in Mexico or America. It doesn't matter whether you are a janitor or the president of a company. It doesn't matter, if you know Christ, "*Bless God who has blessed us with heavenly blessings, spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus.*" That is where the blessed are; they are in Christ.

Paul says, "I bless God because He has blessed me." Paul was in prison when he wrote this. He was a prisoner of Jesus Christ. He said, "I've learned that wherever I am to be content. Bless God, He has blessed me." He wasn't driving down the road with a telephone in his car and having money in his pocket and claiming to be well and healthy and on the topside or the shady side. Paul was in prison and yet he said, "Bless God who has blessed me with all spiritual blessings."

Paul takes a step back before time in verse 4 and says, "*According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.*" He chose me; I didn't choose Him. He chose me in Christ before the foundation of the world. That is when he chose me. He loved me; I didn't love Him. "*I love Him because He first loved me. Herein is love, not that we loved God; He loved us.*" He loved us and chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world. That is when God chose us. He chose His people out of every tribe, kindred, nation and tongue under heaven to save them by His grace in Christ.

God is not trying to do anything. He is doing everything that He wills to do, everything that He purposed to do, and everything that He plans to do. Somebody said, "God has got a wonderful plan; I wish you would help Him work it." He'll work it. He told Pharaoh, "I raised you up to dump you in the river for my glory." He raised Moses up out of the same household of Egypt to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt.

*“He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world that we should be holy.”* Not because we were holy, but that we should be holy, that we should be without blame before Him in love.

Now, watch this; watch verse five: *“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.”*

Paul starts where he is, he says; “God has blessed me with all these spiritual blessings, heavenly blessings in Christ.” He has blessed me with eternal life and forgiveness, a righteousness and sanctification. My name is written in glory. Why? He chose to do it. He chose to do it before the world began. *“He chose to make me holy and without blame before Him,”* having already predetermined it.

What does the word *“predestinated,”* mean? Well, take the word “destination”. What is my destination? My destination is heaven. My destination is to be like Christ. My destination is to be conformed to His image. Well, when was that all decided? When was that determined? I was predestinated, preordained and pre-decided. That is exactly right! God did it. The word “Predestination” is found in the New Testament four or five times. It is found in First Peter 1. It is found twice in Romans 8, and again twice here in Ephesians 1. Search the scripture, and when you find it (every time), it has to do with one thing: God Almighty has predetermined and predestinated and pre-purposed that every body that He saves is going to be like Christ. You read it!

Election has to do with people. Predestination has to do with what those people are going to be. That is exactly right! Watch Paul in verse 3: “God has blessed me with all spiritual blessings” (take a step back), and He chose me to be holy in Christ. Having already predetermined (he takes another step back), and predestinated all of us (His elect) to be conformed to the image of God’s Son. To be adopted as a child by Christ Jesus. This is *“According to the good pleasure of His own will.”* Why did God do this? He willed to it.

I hear people talking about man’s free will. Man’s will is in bondage. You might say, “My will, your will or free will. You might say their will, this will, and that will.” Listen; whose will is going to be done? The answer is God’s will. *“According to the good pleasure of His own will. Who worketh all things after the council of His own will.”* Daniel wrote in Daniel 4, *“He doeth according to His will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of this earth.”* John wrote in John 1:13, *“We are born, not of the will of the flesh, not of the will of man; we are born of God.”* Paul wrote in Romans 9, *“It is not of Him that willeth; it is not of him that runneth; it is of God that showeth mercy.”*

“But what about my will?” Christ said, “*You will not come to Me that you might have life.*” I’ll tell you what your will is; your will is a “will not” (“I will not believe”). I read this passage of scripture and some of you say “I will not believe it.” No, but you will if God teaches it to you. You will if God opens your eyes, then you will see it. You will if God opens your heart to believe it. You will if He makes you His child.

You’ll give Him the glory because in the next verse it says, “*He did all this to the praise of the glory of His grace.*” Do you see it there? In verse 6 it says, “*To the praise of the glory of His grace, that in the ages to come He might show His riches, His grace toward us in Christ Jesus.*” Paul says, “Oh! Bless God!” (Paul’s starting where he is). “*Bless God who has blessed me, according as he chose me. Having predestinated me to the adoption of a Son, according to the good pleasure of His own will.*” He did it all that He might be glorified. “*To the praise of the glory of His grace.*” This is to glorify His grace.

We are not going to be walking around heaven praising our preacher, praising our denomination, praising our works, praising our might, praising our strength and praising our gifts. We are going to be walking around heaven praising our God. “*Wherein, He made us accepted in the beloved.*”

I hear everyone talking about how they accepted Jesus. They say, “I accepted, I accepted.” This doesn’t say that. In fact, I can’t find it anywhere in the Word of God where it says “accept Jesus.” I find where Christ accepted us. It says here, “*He made us accepted in the beloved.*” He made us accepted. He made us righteous so He could accept us. He made us Holy so He could accept us. He made us without sin so that we could be accepted. He made us accepted. He accepted us in Christ.

Watch these next verses and you will find the work of the Son. In verse 7 it says, “*In whom (in Christ) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*” What is redemption? Redemption is when something is bought back.

I take my watch down to the pawnshop. I’m out of money and I give it to the man. I say, “I want to sell you my watch; I want some money in return for my watch.” He says, “I’ll give you \$50.00 for it.” I say, “Well, thank you.” I take it and it is his. He hangs it on a shelf and puts a price tag on it. If I go back a week later to redeem it, I’m going to have to pay what it costs. I will pay him the \$55.00 or \$65.00. He then gives me my watch. I have just redeemed my watch. How did I redeem it? I bought it; I paid what was owed on it. I paid the outstanding debt on that watch.

We had a debt on us. We were in debt to the law. We were in debt to the justice of God. We are sinners my friend. Don't take that lightly. *"God is angry with the wicked."* That is what the Word of God says. We've been told by all of these silly preachers, "Oh, God is in love with everybody. God is just an old white-headed granddaddy who is in love with everybody. He's not mad at anybody. We're all going to heaven when we die." That is not so; God is angry! The wrath of God resteth and abideth upon the ungodly.

We need to be redeemed. We need to be redeemed through His blood. How lost is man? How lost are men? They are so lost; that it took the blood of God to cleanse them. They are so lost that it took the death of the Son of God to save them. They are so lost that Almighty God sent His own Son, the only one who could possibly redeem us. That is how lost we are.

*"We have through His blood the forgiveness of sin, and that according to the riches of His grace."* It is not because we deserve it. It is because God is rich in grace. *"Wherein He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence."* Christ wisely redeemed us. We see in Him, the wisdom and the power of God.

Look at verse 9: *"Jesus Christ made known unto us the mystery of His will."* Did you know that the gospel is a mystery? Oh yes it is! It has to be revealed. It is not learned by education; it is learned by revelation. But, Jesus Christ, our prophet who reveals God says, *"No man knows the Father but the Son and he to whom the Son will reveal Him. No man has seen God at any time. The only begotten hath declared it."* The only way that you will know God is to seek Christ. The disciples said, *"Show us the Father."* He said, *"He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father."*

Now, read verse 9; *"He made known unto us the mystery of God's will according to the good pleasure which He purposed in Himself."* The purpose is in Him.

Verse 10 says, *"That in the dispensation of the fullness of time, He might gather together in one, all things in Christ which are in heaven and earth."* If you are not in Christ, you will not be gathered. That gathering will be of those in Christ. That's right; I told you!

You will have to be in the Ark, in the city of refuge, in the Redeemer, in the Lord Jesus Christ, in the Beloved. Even in Him, He repeats it; *"He'll gather together in that great day all things in Christ which are in heaven, which are in earth, even in Him."*

Look at verse 11: *"In whom we have obtained an inheritance being predestinated."* We are in Christ and that is our inheritance. That is our life. That is our glory and that is our

heaven in Christ. We have obtained an inheritance as being predestinated, *“According to the purpose of God, who worketh all things after the council of His own will.”*

In Christ we have redemption. In Christ we have a revelation of God’s will. In Christ we have an inheritance. Look at verse 12: *“That we should be to the praise of His glory.”* That we should be to the praise, not of us, but of His glory who trusted in Christ.

Watch verse 13: Here you have the Holy Spirit’s ministry. *“In whom you trusted after you heard the Word of truth.”* It is not error or some fellow popping off. You have heard the Word of truth, straight from the Word of God, the gospel of your salvation. *“In whom also, after you believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit.”*

Don’t be deceived by these fellows selling the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit baptizes everybody who is saved into the body of Christ. Everyone who knows Christ has the Holy Spirit. *“If any man hath not the Holy Spirit of Christ he is none of His.”* Absolutely! You believed and you were sealed, and never to spoil. The Holy Spirit seals you. That Holy Spirit is your comforter and your teacher who abides within you. He is the earnest, He is the token and He is the pledge of your inheritance until the redemption of that purchased possession, *“unto the praise of His glory.”* There it is!