

# Ephesians 1:1-14

## Study 2: Every spiritual blessing?



*It is best understood as a stately prayer, or call to worship, designed to lift the readers' eyes away from themselves, and from their fears, to the majesty and love of God revealed in his unfolding plan, and to the privilege of participating in it. The content (as with Paul's introductory thanksgivings in other letters) is deliberately selected to introduce the main themes of the letter; this section is thus a key to understanding the letter as a whole.*

*New Bible Commentary*



### Why is Paul writing this?

*How might Paul's words challenge the existing beliefs or practices of his audience?*

*Paul makes reference to blessings in the 'heavenly realms'. What point might he be making?*

*Consider the Christian as heavenly rather than earthly minded (see Philippians 3:19-21, Colossians 3:1-4)*

*Why does Paul emphasise being 'chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world' (v.4)?*

*What impact might the phrase 'adoption to sonship' (v.5) have? See also 'you were also included...' (v.13)*

*Throughout this passage, what evidence does Paul present that God has 'blessed us with every spiritual blessing' (v.3)?*

*What 'mystery' might Paul have been speaking on in v.9?*



### What's the big idea?

*When exploring a passage, try to identify the main point being made.*

*Think about the completeness of God's provision:*

- » *He blessed us (v.3)*
- » *He chose us (v.4)*
- » *He predestined us [to adoption] (v.5)*
- » *He has given us grace (v.6)*
- » *He has redeemed us (v.7)*

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**How does this apply to or influence us today?**

*Which parts of this passage are relevant today?*

*When do we have a tendency to focus on earthly things, rather than heavenly? See also Colossians 3:1-2.*

*Consider the phrase "He/she is too heavenly minded to be of any earthly use". What (if any) truth is there to this statement?*

*How does life in 21st Century Britain impact our willingness/ability to grasp such celestial ideas about blessings in the heavenly realms?*

*What do Paul's words in v.11 mean to you - chosen and predestined according to a plan that never fails?*

*Can you think of an example when all looked lost but God turned things around? (Remember that God's 'Plan B' is always Plan A)!*

*Which of God's blessings might we need to see in a new light?*