A LETTER FROM THE APOSTLE PAUL

PART I

The Basics:

The Apostle Paul

Circular Letter (Versus Occasional)

Highlighted Words

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus (\*), the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verses 1:1-2

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed** us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Verse 1:3

Verses 1:4-5

For he **chose** us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In **love** he predestined us for **adoption** to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

The Greek word for adoption to sonship is a legal term referring to the full legal standing of an adopted male heir in Roman culture.

to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have **redemption** through his blood, the **forgiveness** of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us.

Verses 1:6-8

With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

Verses I:8 (Cont.)-10

In him we were also **chosen**, having been **predestined** according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

Verses 1:11-12

And you also were **included** in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were **marked** him with a **seal**, (\*) the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit **guaranteeing** our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Verses 1:13-14