

Ephesians A Translation by James Garriss¹

Greetings

1:1 *From* Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
to the holy ones who are in Ephesus, believers in union with Christ Jesus:
2 grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A Eulogy of God

3 Blessed *is* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as he chose us for himself in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love, 5 having predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of the glory of his grace, which he graced us in the Beloved One. 7 In whom we are having redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, according to the abundance of his grace 8 which he provided in abundance to us along with all wisdom and understanding, 9 having made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he planned beforehand in him 10 for the management of the completion of the times, to bring everything together again in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth in him. 11 In whom also we were assigned by God to be his inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of the One working everything according to the decision of his will, 12 in order for us, the ones who had already hoped in the Christ, to live to the praise of his glory. 13 In whom also, having heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation and believed, you were sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of God's possession, to the praise of his glory.

Paul's First Prayer for the Ephesians

15 Because of this, having heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love to all the holy ones, **I** also 16 do not cease giving thanks for you while remembering *you* during my prayers. 17 *I pray* that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of

¹ Words in *italics* are implied; words in **bold** are emphasized.

him, 18 having the eyes of your heart enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what *is* the abundance of the glory of his inheritance in the holy ones, 19 and what *is* the incomparable greatness of his power to us who are believing according to the working of the might of his strength. 20 *This power* he worked in Christ, when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places 21 far above every ruler, authority, power, and dominion and every known title not only in this age **but** also in the *age* to come; 22 “he put everything in subordination under his feet;” and he gave him, head over everything, to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of the One filling all in all.

The Power of God in Salvation: The Dead are Made Alive

2:1 And you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which at one time you walked in conformity with the age of this world, in conformity with the ruler of the domain of the air, *the ruler* of the spirit currently working in the sons of disobedience; 3 among whom at one time **we** all also lived in the lusts of our flesh, doing the will of the flesh and the mind, and we were by nature children of wrath, even as the others.

4 But God, being abundant in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—you have been saved by grace—6 raised us together *with him*, and seated *us* together *with him* in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might demonstrate the incomparable abundance of his grace in generosity toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For you have been saved by grace through faith; and this *was* not from you, *but it was* a gift of God. 9 *It was* not from works, so no one may boast. 10 For we are **his** masterpiece, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, so that we might walk in them.

The Power of God in Salvation: Jews and Gentiles are Made into One New Body

11 Therefore remember that formerly **you**, the Gentiles in flesh (called “uncircumcised” by those called “circumcised,” *which is* done in the flesh by hands), 12 were apart from Christ, having been excluded from the citizenship of Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus **you** who were formerly far away were brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who made both *groups* one and destroyed **the dividing wall of separation**, the hostility, 15 by invalidating in his flesh **the law of the commandments contained in ordinances**, so that he might create **the two** in himself into one new man, *thus* making peace, 16 and might reconcile both *groups* in one body to God through the cross by killing the hostility in himself. 17 And having come he himself proclaimed the message of peace to you, the ones who were far off, and *to us*, the ones who were near, 18 so that through him both *groups* have the right to approach the Father in one Spirit.

19 So then you are no longer foreigners and temporary residents, **but** you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the family of God, 20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the entire building, being joined together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom also **you** are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The Mystery of Christ

3:1 For this purpose, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²

2 Surely you have heard of the management of God's grace, which was given to me for you, 3 that is, the mystery made known to me **by revelation**, just as I briefly wrote before. 4 When you read that, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other times as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. 6 *The mystery is this*: the Gentiles are joint heirs, members of the same body, and partners of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, 7 of which I was made a servant according to the gift of God's grace, which was given to me according to the working of his power.

8 This grace was given **to me, the least worthy of all the holy ones**, to proclaim the message of the unfathomable abundance of Christ **to the Gentiles** 9 and to enlighten everyone about the management of the mystery that had been hidden for ages in God who created everything, 10 so that God's very diversified wisdom might now be made known **through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places**. 11 *This was* according to the eternal plan,

² Paul stopped himself mid-sentence and then continued his thought in 3:14.

which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and the right to approach *God* with confidence through faith in him. 13 Therefore I myself am asking you to not be discouraged by my afflictions on your behalf, which is your glory.

Paul's Second Prayer for the Ephesians

14 For this purpose I bow on my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth receives a name, 16 so that he might cause you to be strengthened with power in the inner man through his Spirit according to the abundance of his glory, 17 to have Christ reside in your hearts through faith. *I bow* so that you, having been firmly rooted and well-founded **in love**, 18 might be fully able to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the width, length, height, and depth, 19 and so to know the love of Christ, which goes far beyond knowledge. *I bow* so that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able, according to the power working in us, to do infinitely more than all that **we ask or imagine**, 21 to him *be* glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Live Worthy of your Calling

4:1 Therefore **I**, a prisoner in the Lord, am urging you to live in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 *There is* one body, one Spirit—just as you too were called to the one hope of your calling— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 *and* one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.

7 Now grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8 This is the reason it says, “Having ascended to a high place, he captured captives, *and* he gave gifts to men.” (9 Now what does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended into the lower [regions] of the earth? 10 The **one who descended** is also the one who ascended above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.)

11 And **he** gave some *to be* apostles, some *to be* prophets, some *to be* evangelists, *and* others *to be* pastors and teachers 12 for the purpose of the preparation of the holy ones for the work of serving, *that is*, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13

until we all obtain to the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature person, *and* to the measure of the maturity of the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result we would no longer be infants, being tossed about by the waves and blown along by every wind of teaching, by the trickery of people, *or* by craftiness towards error-filled strategies, 15 but, communicating truth in a loving manner, we would grow in everything into Christ, who is the head, 16 from whom the entire **body**, being joined and held together by every supporting ligament according to the measured activity of each individual part, brings about the growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Live as you Learned Christ

17 Therefore in the Lord this is what I say and insist upon: **You** are no longer to live as the Gentiles live in the futility of their thinking, 18 darkened in their understanding *and* estranged from the life of God because of their ignorance *and* the hardness of their heart. 19 Having become calloused, they handed themselves over to extreme immorality for the practice of every kind of impurity with an insatiable desire for more.

20 But **you** did not learn Christ like that, 21 seeing that you heard about him and were taught in him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 to take off, with regard to *your* former way of life, your old self, who is being corrupted in accordance with *its* deceptive desires; 23 to be continually renewed in the way your mind thinks; 24 and to put on the new self, who was created in conformity to God in true righteousness and piety.

25 Therefore, having removed falsehood, “each of you speak truth with his neighbor,” because we are members of one another. 26 “Be angered yet do not sin;” do not let the sun set on your festering anger 27 nor give an opportunity to the Slanderer. 28 Do not let the thief steal any longer, but let him work hard, doing what is good with his own hands, so that he might have *something* to share with the one in need. 29 Do not let any unwholesome words go out of your mouths **but** whatever *words are* good for the purpose of edifying someone in need, so that it gives grace to those who hear, 30 and do not grieve God’s Holy Spirit by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let every kind of bitter resentment, rage, anger, quarreling, and malicious talk together with every kind of hateful feeling be removed from you. 32 Instead be kind *and* compassionate to one another *and* forgive each other, just as God in Christ also forgave you.