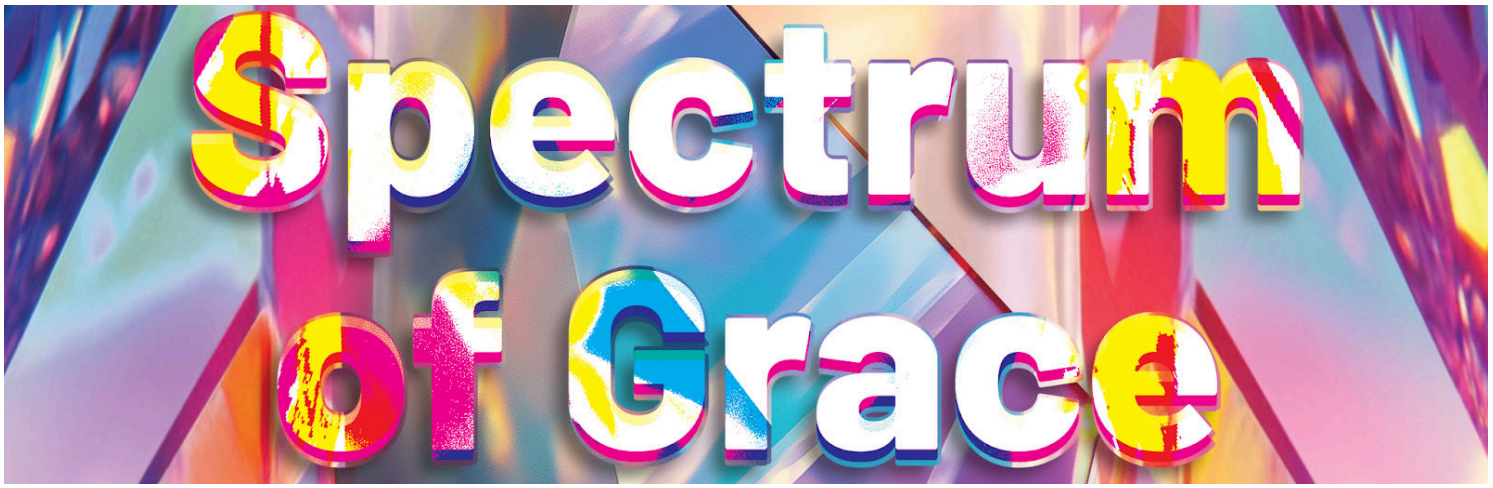
- FOCAL POINT - MESSAGE OUTLINE -



Ephesians 1:1-6 NKJV

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 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, 4 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, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

INTRODUCTION

Series - Spectrum of Grace

Paul will pray in the first prayer in 1:15-23: **That's the light.**

Paul's second prayer is that in 3:14-21: **That's the love.**

Do you want to have the Spirit of Jesus living and working in you?

My prayer is that we will see and know the spectrum of God's Grace—so that we will in turn love others in the power of His grace.

The Letter and History

Ephesus was part of the Roman Empire. A large city with upwards of 200,000 people.

Famous for having a giant statue of the goddess Artemis, which they worshipped.

True worship is necessary for godly living, having a godly family, and the power to maintain all of this.

It doesn't work the other way around. It is a letter to Gentiles about true worship of God in Christ.

The Blank _____

The earliest copies of this letter is missing the place name. It was blank.

The letter very well can be a letter written to us today in Tokyo, at TBC.

It had application already back then, and also for us today.

This is the **focal point** of Ephesians is the praise and Glory of our God

v.1a *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God*

Paul wants them to know he is an apostle, and he is one by God's will. **Why is that important?**

Being an apostle gives his writings the right to be part of the Bible even today.

They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and ***fellowship****, in the* ***breaking of bread****, and* ***in prayers.***
Acts 2:42

Where would you be without your encounter with Jesus through the Gospel?
Do remember WHY you are here?

v.1b *To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:*
The term "saints" does not refer to a special group of super holy people.
All believers in Jesus Christ are called saints, It is not about achieving personal perfection.
In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation, and we we are all placed into the Kingdom of God, today.
Our physical location may be here, but our spiritual location, our true identity, is found in Christ.
Our true and future home is the Kingdom of God. It is our real culture.
We should be godly.

You have to share your culture with the world, Christian!

v.2 *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*
Paul was an ambassador to the gentile churches throughout the Roman Empire.
His calling was to teach them how to live, counter-culture to the Ephesian culture.
Is the Kingdom of God your new counter-culture? Do you live this way?
Focused on the culture up there, in the heavens, and not down here.

v.3 *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...*
Ephesians 1:3-14 is actually the longest sentence in the Bible.
What an encouragement! The longest sentence in the Bible is about the blessings we have *in* Christ!
Heaven is the source of all blessing. On Earth, these blessings are found 'in Christ.'
In Christ, you receive these blessings of grace. **It is a done deal.**

John 10:10, *'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'*

This 'abundant life' is not just a promise for the future; it's a reality for today.
We are given all of this to touch the lives of others.

Do you emulate the grace given to you, in your life, towards others?

v.4 *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.*

But what is the purpose of this predestination? It's about our *being something new.*
God choosing us together "so that" (purpose) we will *be* His people.
It's not about individuals but about the corporate calling of the Church.
v.4 must lead us to worship and praise and "so that" we love each other! (cf. 3:17; 4:2, 15, 16; 5:2)

Do you feel distant from the Lord?
You will feel distant from Him because you are not worshipping Him.
Your eyes are not focused on the things above.
You are not remembering what the New Testament says about your salvation.
And not focused on all the spiritual blessings in the heavenly places *in Christ.*

Covetousnes is the desire for things you don't have. It steels your joy, and steels your worship.

Unholiness always moves you away from God.

vv.5-6 *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.*

John 6:40 *And this is **the will** of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

God's will is for everyone to put their faith in Jesus.
The destination is a new creation, a new people of God, a new city of God, a new heaven.
The more worship we give to Him, the more glory He gets. That is the condition of election.

This is the grace of God.

CONCLUSION

But what about the peace Paul greeted us with?
We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Romans 5:1**

But sometimes in life, it seems we have no peace.
But this is where our predestination especially helps bring our blessings into **a focal point.**

Romans 8 is addressing their suffering.
v.18 *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

If all you are looking at is predestination, then you are missing the biggest blessing of them all.
Paul begins Romans 8:1 starting with the hope we have *in Him*.
Paul then tells us that as you put to death the workings of the flesh.
When you do that, if you are in Christ, then His Spirit *lives in you.* (v.11)
When the Spirit is in you, you can now call upon God as "Abba, Father" as heirs with Christ.
The Spirit also helps us in our weakness. (v.26) He appeals to God on our behalf.
And this adopts us into the blessing that is provided according to His purpose.

Without knowing this, you won't have the knowledge Paul is praying you will have,
Romans 8:28 - *And **we know** that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

This is the peace Christ had, and the peace we have in His Grace.
All things working together for us, for us who love God.

INVITATION

If you place your faith in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, and believe in Him for eternal life, you will have His grace, a Father *in* Heaven and a family *of* Heaven. You will have joy and you will have peace.

The Bible says this is what God thinks:
He says, *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.* Jeremiah 29:11

Believe in Jesus, and you will have a destiny. You will be with Him in Paradise.

Jesse Mark Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
March 22 & 23, 2025

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class 301 Ministry
April 19th (Sat)
1:30 - 5:30pm

class 101 Membership
May 11th (Sun)
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