



“Don’t leave your first love!” (Revelation 2:4)

A Study of the Book of Ephesians

Lesson One = THE BLESSINGS IN CHRIST (Ephesians 1:1-14)

Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (May 4, 2014)

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Live event via YouVersion Bible app

Introduction: The city of Ephesus first appears in the Bible in **Acts 18**. Paul lived, worked, and ministered there in the late 50s AD. Many influential people in the New Testament had connections to the church at Ephesus. Sadly, Jesus had to rebuke them (**Revelation 2:1-7**). Why didn’t they heed Paul’s advice? What can we learn from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians? What can we do to ensure that we do not leave our first love? For the next several weeks we will see 12 reasons for falling in love with Jesus! These things were apparently forgotten by the Ephesians soon after Paul’s letter reached them. Let’s study together....

Discussion:

- I. The Beloved Fellowship in the Kingdom (Ephesians 1:1-3)***
- II. The Beautiful Foresight of God (Ephesians 1:4)***
- III. The Blended Family of the Saints (Ephesians 1:5)***
- IV. The Bountiful Favor of the Father (Ephesians 1:6)***
- V. The Bought Freedom of the Blood (Ephesians 1:7)***
- VI. The Broad Forgiveness of the Master (Ephesians 1:7-10)***
- VII. The Bright Future of a Christian (Ephesians 1:11-14)***

Conclusion: Do not forget that the last two words of **Ephesians 1:3** which tell us what a person must do to enjoy these benefits. We have to be ***“in Christ”*** to enjoy these spiritual blessings! The only way for anyone to enjoy the spiritual blessings of the Lord is for that person to be saved by the grace of God! Are you in Christ? Have you taken the steps necessary for salvation? Have you been in Christ but left your first love? It’s time to return to God! It’s time to seek God’s face so that He can begin blessing you again and walking with you again! He loves you! He wants to bless you right now!