

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS
(Ephesians 1:1-3)

I. A Word of GREETING (Eph. 1:1-2)

A. The AUTHOR—PAUL

1. Carried Apostolic AUTHORITY
2. Communicated according to GOD’S WILL
3. The AUDIENCE
4. The “SAINTS ... at EPHESUS”
5. Defined as “the FAITHFUL in CHRIST JESUS”

B. The GREETING

1. “GRACE” (Gr. *charis*—meaning “rejoicing, joy”)
 - a. A conventional greeting among the GREEKS
 - b. Used in NT to denote God’s UNMERITED FAVOR
 - c. Salvation by GRACE ALONE
2. “PEACE” (Gr. equivalent of Heb. *shalom*)
 - a. A conventional greeting among the JEWS
 - b. Designates that which results from God’s GRACE
 - c. Reconciliation through Christ giving PEACE with God

3. Both come from the FATHER and the SON
4. Used together to indicate the UNION of Gentile and Jewish believers

II. A Word of THANKSGIVING (Eph. 1:3)

A. The PROVISION of “blessings”

1. Source is GOD
 - a. He who is WORTHY of PRAISE
 - b. The Father of our LORD JESUS CHRIST
2. Character is both SPIRITUAL and HEAVENLY
3. Supply is in CHRIST
 - a. Available only to BELIEVERS
 - b. Based on our UNION with Christ
 - c. Necessary for our UNITY in Christ (2:11-22)

B. The PURPOSE of “blessings” (cf. Mt. 16:18b; Acts 15:14; Eph. 5:27)

1. Make us PRAISEWORTHY in CHRIST
2. Bring us into UNION with GOD (in Christ)
3. Give us UNITY with BELIEVERS (in Christ)