

Dear Grace Church,

At his first thought of applying the first principles of the gospel in Ephesians 1:3, Paul piles one blessing on top of another in attempt to help us scale the heights of glory in God made known to us in the redeeming work of Christ in the gospel. This he does to build a foundation of mutual love and service in Christ's church to enable us to grow together in grace and love.

For your preparation, please consider the structure of Ephesians: "The Blessings of the Gospel" (Chapters 1-3) and "The Church's Calling to Walk in a Manner Worthy of the Blessings of the Gospel (Chapters 4-6). If you have time, I encourage you to read Ephesians through from start to end.

If your time is limited, please read Ephesians 1:3-14 and Ephesians 4:11-16. Read and pray through the outline. I look forward to being together for our growing experience of the communion of love and grace in the Triune God.

Seeking to build Grace Church up in Love together with you,

Murray

**HOW TO BUILD THE PERFECT CHURCH SERIES, MESSAGE 4**  
**COVENANT OF REDEMPTION AND COVENANT OF GRACE APPLIED**  
**"Communion with God in Trinitarian Blessing**  
**to Build the Church Up in Love"**  
**Ephesians 1:3-14, 4:11-16**

**KeyWords for Kids: Blessing God, Communion with God, Everlasting Love, Redeeming Grace, Sealing of the Spirit**

<sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>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, <sup>5</sup>having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup>which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, <sup>9</sup>having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, <sup>10</sup>that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. <sup>11</sup>In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup>that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup>In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. (NKJV)

I. Blessing God for the Trinitarian Blessings of the Gospel (3)

II. Blessed— Communion with God the Father in Everlasting, Covenant Love (3-6)

III. Blessed— Communion with God the Son in Free, Redeeming Grace (7-12)

IV. Blessed— Communion with God the Spirit in Sealing Us for Our Glorious Future Inheritance in Heaven (13-14)

V. Application of Each Blessing for the Equipping of the Saints for the Work of the Ministry (Relationship of 1:3-14 to 4:1-16)

Ephesians 4:1–16 <sup>1</sup>I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup>with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. <sup>7</sup>But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup>Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."* <sup>9</sup>(Now this, "*He ascended*"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; <sup>14</sup>that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, <sup>15</sup>but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—<sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.