



BELIEVERS IN CHRIST

God's Workmanship

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ON LINE HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Full-size and ready-to-print handouts, coloring pages, memory verse tokens and posters for this volume are available online. Visit www.biblevisuals.org and search for item #A1029 for a ready-to-print PDF download.

Lesson 1

THE BELIEVERS CHOSEN AND ADOPTED

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

When Paul wrote to the churches, he first instructed them in doctrine. Then he taught them how to put the doctrine into practice. In the book of Ephesians he follows the same pattern. He reveals the high position of believers: they are in Christ (chapters 1-3).

Then he unfolds how the believer who is so richly blessed should behave (chapters 4-6). The privileges and responsibilities of the believer in Christ are made known.

God never makes mistakes. He has chosen believers and planned for them to be holy and without blame before Him. This does not mean that God has chosen some people to be lost. He has never said this. (See 2 Peter 3:9; compare Ezekiel 33:11.) He invites all to come to Him.

In teaching the truth of adoption, make it perfectly clear that God has placed us as sons in His family, declaring us to be far more than servants.

Scripture to be studied: Ephesians 1:1-5; all verses in the text.

The aim of the lesson: To show that God has chosen all who are believers and has chosen them to be holy and without blame. In His love, He has adopted each believer as His son and heir.

What your students should know: It is because of Christ's death that believers are chosen and adopted.

What your students should feel: The awe of being chosen by God before the foundation of the world; the joy of being His sons and heirs.

What your students should do:

Saved: Share the truths of being chosen and adopted with a Christian who has not had this lesson.

Unsaved: Turn to the One who says "Whosoever will may come," receiving Him as Saviour and Lord.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. Believers are in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).
2. Believers were chosen before the world was made (Ephesians 1:4).
 - A. Chosen to be in Christ
 - B. Chosen to be holy and without blame
3. Believers are adopted (Ephesians 1:5).
 - A. Adopted because of Jesus Christ
 - B. Adopted as sons and heirs of God

The verse to be memorized:

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works . . . (Ephesians 2:10a)

THE LESSON

A secret is fun, especially if you are one who knows what the secret is. The book of Ephesians, which we begin to study today, is filled with secrets for the person who believes in Christ. You will enjoy discovering what these secrets are.

1. BELIEVERS ARE IN CHRIST

Ephesians 1:3

Thirteen or 14 of our New Testament books were written by the Apostle Paul. He wrote the letter to the Ephesian church while he was in prison in Rome. He could hardly wait to tell the Christians the first secret. Immediately after his greeting he writes that God has given believers every spiritual good thing right here on earth. We don't have to wait to have good things in Heaven. We have them in this life because of what the Lord Jesus has done for us.

Before the coming of Christ, God blessed His people, the Jews, with earthly good things: long life, wealth, success. (See Exodus 20:12; Joshua 1:8.) They enjoyed these blessings here on earth. Since Christ Jesus came, God blesses Christians with heavenly good things: forgiveness of sins, peace with God, true happiness, and much more. Although these are heavenly things, we enjoy them here and now on earth. It is so because of this important fact: believers are in Christ. (See Ephesians 1:3b.)

We Christians speak of having Christ in us. This is true. (See Colossians 1:27.) He does live within us. But it is equally