

PAUL'S
INSTRUCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO HOW TO LIVE
sent to the
EPHESIANS
and
Other Gentile Jesus-Followers in Asia
An English Translation of the Greek Text
Digital file version : Work in Progress-A
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Address and Greeting

PART 1

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Messiah Jesus by the will of God.
- 2•To the holy ones who are at Ephesus, even the believers who are in Messiah Jesus.
- 3•Grace to you and *shalom* from God, our Father, and from the Lord, Jesus the Messiah.

[1:1-2]

Introduction

§ 1 • *Praise to God for the Grace He Has Given to the Jews who Have Believed*

PART 2

- 2 Praise be to God, even the Father of our Lord, Jesus the Messiah, the one who has blessed those of us who are included among the followers of the *messiah* with every aspect of the Spirit-imparted blessing that consists of transcendent realities. 2•This he has done insofar as he chose us, before the foundation of the cosmos, to be “in him” so that we would be holy and unblemished before him, since—in an act of love, in accord with the desire of his will—he had predestined us, through Jesus the Messiah, for our adoption as sons in relation to him. 3•This is to the praise of the glory of his grace—the grace with which he graced us in the one who loved us. 4•In him we have freedom through his blood—the forgiveness of trespasses in accord with the riches of the grace that he bestowed in abundance upon us. 5•With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the secret of his will. 6•This secret was in accord with what he wanted—which he put forth in him—with regard to supplying with Life the throughout-all-time *pleroma*¹. 7•It follows that he gathers together all the members of the *pleroma* under one category—“being in the *messiah*”—uniting “in him” both those “under the skies”² and those “upon the land.”³ 8•Indeed, “in him”—having been predestined in accord with the purpose of the one who works all things in accord with the counsel of his will—we have been allotted an inheritance; and that is to the end that we—the ones who were the first

¹The “completed whole,” specifically, the “full and complete set of the people of God.”

²Those “under the skies” are Gentiles.

³Those “upon the land” are Jews.

to hope in the *messiah*—might exist to the praise of his glory.

[1:3-12]

§ 2 • Paul Responds to Fact That His Gentile Readers Are Included as Beneficiaries of God's Grace

PART 3

3 “In him” you also, having heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—“in him” you too, because you believed, were sealed by the Holy One with the promised spirit—which is the pledge of our inheritance—for the redemption of his possession, resulting in the praise of his glory.

[1:13-14]

4 Indeed, for this very reason, having heard of the belief in our Lord Jesus which is among you and of your love toward all the holy ones, I do not cease giving thanks when, in my prayers, I make mention of you. 2•My prayer for you is that the God of our Lord, Jesus the Messiah—the Father of glory—may give you his Spirit, who brings the revealed wisdom that consists in an understanding of him, when the eyes of your heart have been enlightened. 3•And this is to the end that you will know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of the glory of his inheritance benefitting the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power toward us who believe. 4•This power is in accord with the working of the strength of his might which he worked on behalf of the *messiah* when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the divine realm, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and far above every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. 5•Indeed he placed all people in subjection under his feet, and he gave him as head over all people in the *ekklesia*⁴, which is the body of those who belong to him, the *pleroma* of the one who is filling the whole with all who are his.

[1:15-23]

Preliminary Considerations: God's Ultimate Agenda

§ 1 • God's Plan to Create One Eternal People

§ 1.1 • Paul's Gentile Readers Have Been Rescued by God's Plan for Extending Mercy to Sinners

PART 4

5 Now, as for you—you were dead in your trespasses and sins. 2•In these you formerly walked, in conformity to the times of this established order, in accord with the ruler behind the power of the atmosphere in which we live, of that intangible force now at work among the sons of disobedience. 3•Among them we too all formerly conducted our lives by the desires of our *sarx*⁵, doing the things wanted by the *sarx* and its intentions. 4•We were, in truth,

⁴An assembly, group, collection, or mass of people—specifically, that group of people that constitutes the eternal people of God.

⁵The word *sarx* means “flesh” (the meat that hangs on the skeleton of a human or animal). However, it is used as a synecdoche for the present state of our physical existence as human beings, taken as a whole (that is, it stands for human existence in our flesh here and now). And often it stands for the wickedness and depravity that constitute the moral condition that we have as human beings in the present physical state of our existence in the here and now. In this statement here, we could paraphrase “the desires of our *sarx*” as “the desires that arise naturally from the natural-born human beings that we are in our present state as sons of Adam.”