

## Sermon Handout

Union with Christ

Ephesians 1:1-6

### I. Paul an Apostle by the Will of God vv. 1-2

- a. St. Paul's focus is on God, from the beginning of the letter
- b. Paul is called despite his failures I Cor 15:8-10; I Tim 1:12-16
- c. God made Paul his mouthpiece to "the faithful" *cf.* Rev 19:11
  - i. This doctrine is common to all believers
  - ii. Jesus prayed for those who believe through the Apostles Jn 17:17-20
  - iii. We are all to submit to the Apostles' words

### II. The Grace of God in Christ vv. 3-6

#### a. We are blessed **in Christ**

With every blessing in the heavenly sphere

- b. God chose us . . . for holiness v. 4 *cf.* Rom 8:29
- c. God predestined us for adoption v. 5
- d. God chose us for his own glory v. 6

Not for any worthiness in ourselves *cf.* Paul's calling I Tim 1:13-14

### III. The Mystical Union with Christ

- a. Written to the "faithful **in Christ**" v. 1
- b. "All spiritual blessings" **in Christ** v. 3
- c. Adopted **through Jesus Christ** v. 5
- d. Accepted **in the Beloved One** (Christ) v. 6

### IV. Faithful Christians are Blessed by being in Christ *cf.* Eph 2:6; Col 2:13

- a. Ephesus connected with the Revelation of Jesus Christ Rev 1:1, 4, 10-11
- b. The entire church is in the throne room of heaven Rev 4:1-2, 4
- c. The church is at the throne to glorify God in Christ Rev 4:10-11; 5:8  
St. Paul exhorts us to practice this worship on earth in this life  
*See* Rom 12:1 ("your reasonable – suitable – worship")