



Striving for Excellence

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How being the property of Christ should cause us to strive for excellence

Ephesians 1:1-14

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

¹¹In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

(New International Version)

Discussion Questions:

1:3 – What are the spiritual blessings that we have?

How do our spiritual blessings make us better workers in our secular jobs?

1:4-5 – Why should we be without blame before God?

1:5-6 – Why did God accept us as His children?

1:7-8 – What has God's grace resulted in?

How are we the property of Christ?

How should being the property of Christ cause us to act toward others?

What is the alternative to being the property of Christ?

How does not being the property of Christ cause people to act toward others?

1:9-12 – What mystery did God make known to us?

What is the purpose of God?

How may we fulfill the purpose of God in our work?

1:13-14 – What does it mean to be sealed with the Holy Spirit?

How does one become sealed with the Holy Spirit?

Why should being sealed with the Holy Spirit result in our striving for excellence in our work?