

Welcome	Why are the Gospels different in tone and substance to the Epistles – what would you say? Albert Schweitzer – missionary and scholar in early 20 th century said –“Jesus spoke before the world’s clock struck Paul afterwards”. “Jesus when speaking looked towards the mountain range..... Paul was standing on it”. What was he trying to express?
Worship	<i>Please choose.</i> (NB: 20 files containing about 30 newer songs are available to borrow from the office for groups)
Word (refs.)	<i>The sermon from Sunday’s service is available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the ‘downloads’ tab) –</i>
<u>Read</u>	Ephesians 1:1-14 v.2. GRACE is <u>G</u> od’s <u>R</u> escuing <u>A</u> ction in <u>C</u> hrist for <u>E</u> veryone. “Peace” is when grace is received by faith and repentance. Peace with God is experienced (Rom 5:1)and peace and unity is experienced in the believing community v3. “Every Spiritual Blessing” is expounded in v3-14. Paul spoke and wrote in Greek. v3-14 he put into one sentence! He was so filled with joy and excitement at his understanding of the Gospel! How many full stops are there in your translation of these verses? Paul lists the spiritual blessings (v3) under six headings in verses 3-14.
	1.v4 Christian Election. “Chose” and “elect” are the same word in Greek. v4 answers 3 questions Where was our election made; when was it made (does it help to think that eternity is timeless); what is the purpose of our election, (signs of election 1 Thess.1:3) 2. v5-6. Christian Adoption. By whom? Through whom? How does Jesus standing in God’s family differ to ours? John 1:12, 1 John 3:1 3. v7-8a. Christian Redemption. Give incidents in our modern world where “redemption” is used. Release freedom at a price. Are we guilty sometimes of stressing our experience of God over against our standing before God v14, 4:3. Do we forget the holiness of God? cp the Lord’s prayer and Isaiah 6 4. v8b-10, Christian Understanding of Creation. cp Colossians 1:20. Through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or heaven, by making peace through his blood shed on the cross. Cp Romans 8: 19-23 5. v11-12, Christian Inheritance. v14. Holy Spirit is the first instalment of our future (2 Corinthians 1:22). v18. Inheritance will be glorious. 6. v13-14. Christian Assurance by Spirit. 1 st century slaves were marked by a ring worn through ear or skin. Luke 24:29
Witness	Which of these 6 blessings do I need to stress, as these get less attention in my life and our life together, <u>Plan</u> ❖ a group activity during/over the next few weeks to which you can invite those who are not yet Christians (e.g. walk, day out, garden party, summer barbecue, etc.)