

Jim's Notes
May 2, 2007
The Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

Ephesians 1:1

Caius Marius Victorinus (AD 300 – aft. 362):

When Jesus Christ elected Paul and made him an apostle, he elected him through the Spirit by the will of God or the power through whom God works his will. Let us therefore understand, as I often say, that the will of God is the very power, greatness and substance of the whole divine plenitude. Christ, that is, God's Word which was in Christ, is the will of God. Those who consider this more closely will find that God and his will are inseparable. . . . In other letters when he [Paul] writes to a church and its people he does not add to the saints and the faithful. But now, because he desires to keep them loyal to the holy Name, so that, being sanctified, they will not add anything superficially in excess of the Name, he calls them simply by this name: they are the faithful in Christ. (Epistle to the Ephesians 1.1.1)

Ambrosiaster [pseudo-Ambrose] (about A.D. 370):

He [Paul] writes not only to the faithful but to the saints to show that they are truly faithful insofar as they have been sanctified in Christ. For a good life is worthwhile and is called saintly if it is lived in the name of Jesus. Otherwise it is polluted, because it injures the Creator. (Epistle to the Ephesians 1.1.1)

St. Jerome (AD 347- 420)

Those whom he has called saintly he also calls faithful, because faith derives from the choice of our own minds, but sanctification we receive meanwhile from the abundance of the Sanctifier, not from our own will. As for his saying faithful in Jesus Christ, this is aimed at drawing a distinction that should be carefully noted. For there are those who have genuine faith but not faith in Jesus Christ. Someone who returns a deposit and does not deny another's trust shows himself a faithful friend. . . . This person is indeed faithful but not in Christ. (Epistle to the Ephesians 1.1.1)

Cassiodorus (AD 485 - 585):

Paul frequently declares that he was directly called as an apostle by the will of the Lord so as to circumvent those who desired this honor with human presumptions. He writes to the saints and the faithful at Ephesus, adding his blessings with the love of a father. (Summary of Ephesians 1.1.1)