

Spiritual Blessings for Believers United in Christ

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:3-14 ESV

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1. We are Blessed in Christ (3-4)
 - a. Blessed by the Father
 - Every good and perfect gift comes from our Father.
 - Blessed is used 3x to emphasize just how blessed we are.
 - The spiritual blessings: to know the riches of Christ.
 - b. Chosen in Christ
 - God has sovereignly chosen (set apart) us in Christ
 - He chose us because of His unlimited grace

- This doctrine does not sanction sin
- c. Blameless and Holy
 - Believers should live in different ways from the rest of the world
 - God is pleased when we obey

In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. (vs. 5-6)

2. We are Adopted in Christ (5-6)

a. Adoption is from the Father

- Purposed or predestined is used 6 times (always talking about God)
- Our adoption is not earned but given.
- Adoption should bring about God's glory

b. Adoption is in Christ

- We are adopted because of our faith in Christ
- Jesus brought us to God by suffering on our behalf
- We can't lose our adoption because it was earned by Christ

c. The Privileges of Adoption

- Sonship
- Freedom to pray
- Discipline
- Belonging to the Family
- Perspective in suffering
- Future inheritance

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight (vs. 7-8)

3. We are Redeemed in Christ (7-8)

a. Redemption Defined

- Redemption is the price paid for setting a slave free.

b. Redemption Illustrated

- The liberation of Israel from Egypt Ex. 6:6-8, Ex 15:1-3, 11-12

c. Redemption, the Completed Act

- On the cross, redemption was completed for all. There is no other price that can pay for our sins. There is no other person who can redeem us other than Christ.
 - The blood of Christ refers to his sacrificial death, not necessarily the physical blood in his body.
- d. Redemption the Benefits
- Forgiveness of Sin
 - Future Change
 - Freedom from present futile living
- e. Redemption the Response
- Worship God for His redemption in Christ
 - Live a life of Holiness because your life is redeemed
 - Have Hope in Christ Jesus.

Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. (vs. 9-12)

4. We are Purposed in Christ (9-12)
- a. Purposed to know the mystery
- Purpose: Everything going according to plan
 - God's plan is to reveal His mysterious will through Jesus Christ
- b. The Mystery
- God offers salvation to the world through Jesus Christ P1
 - God offers salvation not only to the Jews but to all mankind in Christ P2
 - God plans to unite all creation under Christ P3

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (vs. 13-14) Ephesians 1:3-14 ESV

5. We are Sealed in Christ (13-14)

a. A Right Understanding of the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is the promised one.
- The Holy Spirit is the Seal
 - The seal prevents things from going in or out
 - The seal authenticates what it marks
 - The seal protects what it marks
- The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance

b. The Right Implications to make

- The Holy Spirit seals those who believe in Christ
- God promises to save everyone who comes to Jesus Christ in faith