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Ephesians 1:3-6
Appropriate Responses
1/28/24

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think most people think of themselves as having every spiritual blessing? Why or why not?
 2. The way of salvation is narrow, but it is also simple and clear. What are the advantages and disadvantages to this idea?
 3. What do you think of when you think of the heavenly realm? When might the invisible and physical realms interact?
 4. What did you learn or were reminded about God's grace?
 5. What caught your attention from this message?
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Teaching Notes:

Three themes:

The Father's choosing,

The Son's redeeming,

The Holy Spirit's sealing.

...We will focus on the Father's choosing this morning.

This first phrase sets the tone for the rest of the sentence.

ESV 3 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,

Paul uses the idea "in Christ" 11 times in this one sentence.

All spiritual blessings hinge on being "In Christ" or not.

Big Idea:

The key to every spiritual blessing from God is in Christ.
Jesus is the master key.

What is the appropriate response here?

1. Take and turn the “Master Key”.

Take Christ as your master. Turn away from your old life.

What about all those other things people say to do?

Many of those other things are good spiritual disciplines.
But we don't do them to gain favor, to be worthy, or appease God.

Spiritual disciplines are an appropriate response to a heart that is loved and set free to love others in Christ.

What is the appropriate response to having this master key?

2. Open doors of love and service.

Why is every blessing only found in Christ?

Because outside of Christ we are under the judgment of God.
Without the sacrifice of Christ, we are under the wrath of God.

Our sinful, rebellious, selfish life has gone against the perfect holy will and word of God...and we stand guilty.

What is your appropriate response to a holy, just God?

3. Humbly hide in Christ.

The heavenly places or heavenlies is the spiritual realm.

4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he
predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus

Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

The right response to God's choosing?

4. Rejoice you are chosen.

What does He choose us for?

To be holy and blameless.

...Holy is pure, clean, single purposed, w/o defilement...

...And Blameless

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

He chose you out of grace and He adopted you out of love...

...and neither of those things have to do with you.

Sons received the inheritance.

The appropriate response to a transcendent God is faith and worship.

5. Trust what you know about Who you know.