

# PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW | EPHESIANS 1

- Paul is in chains, under house arrest in Rome,
- It's been ~4-5 years since his visit to Ephesus (Acts 19:1-21:1)
- Paul cares deeply for the Ephesians and they care for him (Acts 20:36-21:1)
- The last time Paul was in Ephesus he spent ~3 years sharing the good news of Jesus

## Bless God for all his blessings (1:3-14)

Ephesians 1 shows us the lengths God goes to love us and calls us to join in Paul's lavish praise.

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all involved in this rescue plan.

1. The Father chose us "to be holy and blameless in love before him," sin-free and guilt-free people who are able to abide with him.

*"I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me. "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they will see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the world's foundation. Righteous Father, the world has not known you. However, I have known you, and they have known that you sent me. I made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love you have loved me with may be in them and I may be in them." John 17:20-26*

A. "According to the good pleasure of his will," God takes the initiative. What drives God to act is his deliberate care to plan our rescue and act on that plan.

God "who works out everything in agreement with purpose of his will (v11)" is resolved to redeem.

B. God's plan is to adopt us. The most distant become kin, co-heirs with Jesus (v10)

"Imagine a Roman Emperor adopting a slave from the most barbaric hinterlands to be the next emperor." (S.M Baugh, EEC, 87).

2. God lavished grace upon us in the "Beloved One" v6.

Jesus is at the center of all this lavish grace, everything restored in and through him.

A. In Jesus we have redemption and forgiveness (7-12)

Jesus comes, "not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28)

He does this work "with all wisdom and understanding." Not haphazardly, but purposeful.

B. In Jesus we have the Holy Spirit as a seal and a down payment (v13-14)

1. Seal - Authenticates, marks and confirms ownership, validates authenticity, guarantees quality, provides confidence. (Lynn H. Cohick, NICNT, 111)

Question 1: What is our only hope in life and in death? That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ. Romans 14:7-8 (Heidelberg Catechism)

*For all those led by God's Spirit are God's sons. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. Romans 8:14-17*

2. Down payment - given as a guarantee that the full measure will be given and enjoyed in the future.

**What do we do to experience these realities for ourselves?**

"You heard the word of truth... and...you believed." v13

Honestly, how do you feel about this good news? What's your experience of this goodness?

**Pray for the Spirit's Insight (1:15-23)**

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened.

1. See what is the **hope of his calling**
2. See what is the **wealth of his glorious inheritance** in the saints
3. See what is the immeasurable **greatness of his power** toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength he exercised this power...

This power gives us assurance that our calling and inheritance is secure and unshakeable. There is simply no greater name imaginable, no greater power ever. And he is for us.

Pray for one another that we might know and experience more of this fullness.