

1 **Blessed be the Lord!**

Ephesians 1:1-14

2 3 4 **Big Idea: God has lavished grace upon us; so, we praise God and live righteously.**5

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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, 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 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.

6

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

7

¹¹ 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, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Eph 1:1-14 ESV)

8 **Big Idea: God has lavished grace upon us; so, we praise God and live righteously.**9 **Blessed be the Lord because:**

- 0. Warning: The church that forgot the Lord (vv. 1-2).
- 1. God's grace is glorious (vv. 3-6).
- 2. God lavished the riches of his grace upon us (vv. 7-10).
- 3. God guarantees our inheritance (vv. 11-14).

10 **0. The faithful church that forgot their first love.**

"To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus ... I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first." (Eph 1:1; Rev 2:4-5)

11 **1. God's grace is glorious (vv. 3-6).**

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, 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 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.

12 **Blessing flows from God's character:**

- i. Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (v. 3).
- ii. Blessed us in Christ (v. 3).
- iii. With every spiritual blessing (v. 3b).
- iv. He chose us in him (v. 4).
- v. He predestined us for adoption as sons through (v. 5).
- vi. He has blessed us in the Beloved.

13 ***In prison, God's people can only be explained by God's grace on their lives. We praise the Lord as we live holy and blameless lives even during difficulty.***

14 **Doctrine leads to Doxology.**

Knowing about God results in praise to God.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

15 **2. God lavished the riches of his grace upon us (vv. 7-10).**

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

16 **All of the grace/praise is Christ-focused!**

" ... Lord Jesus Christ ... in Christ ... in him ... through Jesus Christ ... in the Beloved. In him ... his blood ... his grace, ... in Christ ... in him ... In him ... in Christ ... his glory. In him ... in him ... his glory"

17 **God's grace is demonstrated in:**

- i. Redemption (v. 7a).
- ii. Forgiveness (v. 7b).
- iii. Abundant (lavished) goodness (v. 8).
- iv. Understanding the gospel/Jesus (v. 9).
- v. Unity of all things (v. 10).

18 **3. God guarantees our inheritance (vv. 11-14).**

¹¹ 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*, ¹² *so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory*. ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

19 **The inheritance is personally received.**

- i. We hear the gospel.
- ii. We believe the gospel.
- iii. God seals us with the Holy Spirit.
- iv. We acquire possession of the inheritance.

20 **This morning, as we focus on the grace lavished upon us by God, praise Him.**