

EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN CHRIST

A Summons to Worship: Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be, blessed, blessing?

Praiseworthy is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has **given divine favor** to us in Christ with every spiritual **generous and undeserved gift** in the heavenly places

Every

- Nothing is withheld
- No special way to extra blessings
- No believer is less blessed than another

Spiritual

- Empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Immaterial and supernatural aspect of reality
- Spirit vs flesh and spiritual vs natural
 - Romans 8:4-11; Colossians 3:1-4; Galatians 5:16-25; 1 Corinthians 15:44-46

Heavenly Places

- Not just heaven
- Everything present that is not earth/flesh/blood
- Mentioned 5x in Ephesians
 - Where we have already been blessed (1:3)
 - Where Jesus has been enthroned forever over all evil powers (1:20)
 - Where we have already been raised and seated with Christ (2:6)
 - Where the wisdom of God is made known to the rulers and authorities through the church (3:10)
 - Where spiritual forces of evil also reside (6:12)
 - “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

In Christ

- 27 times in Ephesians
- 11 times in verses 3-14
- Union with Christ embodies every aspect of salvation
 - United to Christ through the indwelling Spirit
 - Share in all that Christ has accomplished

WHAT ARE OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS?

Blessings from God the Father	He chose us	“The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers.” Deuteronomy 7:6-8
	He predestined us	“Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.” Psalm 139:16
	He adopted us	“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” Romans 8:15
Blessings from God the Son	He redeemed us	“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45
	He has forgiven us	“...as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.” Psalm 103:12
	He has made His will known to us	“To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27
	He has given us an inheritance	“...to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...” 1 Peter 1:4
Blessings from God the Holy Spirit	He has sealed us	“Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” Revelation 7:2-3
	He is the guarantee of our inheritance	“And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.” 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

WHAT DOES THIS SAY ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER?

He is Gracious and Loving

- Every blessing: He has withheld nothing
- Being chosen for adoption by the Father
 - The rights of the firstborn heir
- Being redeemed for unity by the Son
 - Being bought from slavery
- Being sealed for inheritance by the Spirit
 - A mark of ownership and protection

He is Sovereign

- He is in control of all time
 - "...he chose us in him before the foundation of the world..." (1:4)
 - "...which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time..." (1:10)
- All things work according to His will
 - "...according to the purpose of his will..." (1:5)
 - "...making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose..." (1:9)
 - "...according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will..." (1:11)

WHAT IS HIS PURPOSE?

- "...that we should be holy and blameless before Him." (1:4)
 - Being chosen is a privilege that carries a great responsibility
- "...to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth." (1:10)
 - God's just order will be fully restored under the rule of Christ
 - The death and resurrection of Christ is the foundation of the new creation

WHAT IS THE OUTCOME?

- Praise to the Father
 - "...to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved." (1:6)
- Praise to the Son
 - "...so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory." (1:12)
- Praise to the Holy Spirit
 - "...who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory." (1:14)

HOW IS THIS ACCOMPLISHED?

THE TRIUNE GOD: By the will of the Father in Christ through the power of the Spirit

- All blessings have their origin in the Father
- All blessings are accomplished by the work of the Son
- All blessings are applied by the work of the Holy Spirit

So What??

1. The glory of election leads to sanctification

CHOSEN THAT YOU WOULD BE HOLY AND BLAMESLESS

- “But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.” Romans 6:22
- “But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.” 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14
- “...according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:” 1 Peter 1:2

2. The glory of His grace leads to repentance

HE HAS BLESSED US IN THE BELOVED

- “Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?” Romans 2:4

3. The glory of His plan leads to eternal praise

HIS PURPOSE AND PLAN FOR THE FULLNESS OF TIME WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED

- “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”
Revelation 4:11
- “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”
Revelation 5:9-10

Discussion Questions

1. What is different about how the world perceives blessings and how Scripture perceives blessings?
2. How do we seek to live in this world in light of the spiritual realities of our riches in Christ?
3. What is challenging about the doctrine of election and predestination?
4. How does understanding your riches in Christ empower you to live a holy and blameless life?
5. What about Paul's doxology in verses 3-14 stood out to you the most? Why? What about his doxology makes you want to praise the triune God?

Homework

Read through the words of Jesus in the Upper Room and the High Priestly Prayer in John 13-17.

Write down references where Jesus speaks to:

HIS PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR ALL OF TIME

- “I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.” John 13:19

BEING CHOSEN, PREDESTINED, or ADOPTED

- “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” John 14:18

BEING BLESSED THROUGH UNION WITH HIM

- “In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.” John 14:20

THE SEALING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” John 14:16-17

BLESSINGS LEADING TO HOLY LIVING

- “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” John 15:8

Week 2
Ephesians 1:3-14
Briarwood Women of the Covenant
Amanda Peterson

HIS PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR ALL OF TIME

"I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he." John 13:19

"And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe." John 14:29

"But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you." John 16:4

"And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed." John 17:5

"Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world." John 17:24

CHOSEN, PREDESTINED, ADOPTED

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you." John 15:16

"If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." John 15:19

"Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him." John 17:1-2

"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word." John 17:6

"I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours." John 17:9

BLESSED IN CHRIST

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

"Because I live, you also will live." John 14:19

"In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you." John 14:20

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." John 14:23

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned." John 15:4-6

THE SEALING WORK OF THE SPIRIT

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." John 14:16-17

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you." John 14:26-27

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning." John 15:26-27

"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you." John 16:13-14

BLESSINGS LEAD TO HOLY LIVING

"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." John 15:8

"And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment..."
John 16:8

"They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth." John 17:16-19