

Blessings for Believers
Outline for July 17, 2022

Ephesians 1:1-14

Paul says God has blessed us ***“with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ”***

The great themes throughout this passage are: ***“in Christ”*** *“the presence of heavenly gifts”* *“the division between Jew and Gentile”* *“the ethical mandates for action”*

Those mandates are for Christians to be holy and blameless because we are ***“adopted by God”*** and ***“sealed by the Holy Spirit.”***

I. Paul tells us that one of our greatest blessings is that God Himself chooses us as believers is to be _____ and _____.

You will notice that he begins all his letters the same way, ***“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ.”***

He apparently used the Hebrew name ***“Saul”*** in Jewish settings, and the Roman name ***“Paul”*** in a Greco-Roman environment.

Acts 13:9 describes the apostle as ***“Saul, who was also called Paul.”*** He referred to himself as ***“Paul, an apostle.”***

Ephesians is meant, not only to glorify the sovereignty of God, but to promote purity of heart and life in the believer.

Look at verses 3-6.

This is a hymn about God’s electing grace. What God began in _____, He activated in _____, and carries on to completion in both _____ and eternity. What God _____ began in grace; He finishes in _____. In chapter 2:8, he says, ***“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”***

God’s choosing believers marks the point of beginning for the _____. Your salvation was not an afterthought with God.

The purpose of God is that we are chosen or predestined in order ***“that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”*** There are some who believe that ***“predestinated”*** means that it is an arbitrary decision of God and there is no freedom of man’s will.

Listen to what Peter says in 2 Peter 3:8.

God so loved the world and that included everyone in every nation who will receive God's gift of salvation. John 1:12 tells us, ***"But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"***

Paul says in Romans 10:13, that ***"whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."***

I don't believe God would send His Son to suffer and die a horrible death on a cruel cross to save someone He already predestined to be saved. God predestined that ***"whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."***

II. God redeems and forgive us as a _____.

Look again at verse 7. When God redeems us, He rescues us from the bondage of sin. That word ***"redemption"*** means "ransom, deliverance."

His predestined purpose is for us is not only for us to be saved, but ***"to be holy and without blame before Him in love."***

We are to be ***"_the world, but we are not to be _____the world."*** If the church is no different than the world, why would anyone want to come to Christ?

When God saves us, He gives us a new _____.

God not only redeems us from the bondage of sin, but He also forgives us of all our sin.

In Psalm 103:12, God says, ***"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*** And Jeremiah tells us, ***"For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*** [Jer. 31:34]

When God _____ us, He has _____ our sin debt.

It is because of His great love and grace that we are saved. We then want to live a God-like life before men. We are saved by His shed blood, and it is His blood that washes away our sin and makes us white as snow.

God's forgiveness means the _____ of a relationship. We were _____ from God because of our sin.

Look at what Paul says in verses 11 and 12.

III. God redeems and forgive us as a sinner. But He gives us His _____ _____.

Verse 13 says,

The greatest gift anyone could give another person is the gift _____. Through the Holy Spirit, God proves His presence in believers.

God has redeemed us by the blood of His Son Jesus, we belong to Him, and he seals us with His indwelling Holy Spirit. Later in chapter four He admonishes us, ***“do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*** [Eph 4:30]

You are saved by His grace, by the blood of Jesus, and you are sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption. Nothing can separate you from Him.

In Romans 8:35-39, Paul asked the question, ***“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”***

He goes on to say in verse 14 of Ephesians 1. God promises even greater blessings.

Billy Graham, in his last book “Where I Am”, talks about “God’s GPS”. He says, “There is a heavenly GPS that will bring you safely to your eternal destination in Heaven. It is called the . It has only one direction—up—and the Navigator is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He is **“the way”** and He appoints the time of arrival and has prepared all that is necessary to welcome us.”

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Romans 10:9-13

John 1:12

Ephesians 2:8-9

We are saved by God’s grace and the conduit to receive that grace is our faith—and then we are kept by His grace.

The important thing is for you to know beyond any shadow of doubt that you have received the gift of God through faith in Christ.

Luke 15:10; ***“Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*** The angles rejoice and we will rejoice as well.

John 14, ***“You believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you.”***

I want you to know, Child of God, the best is yet to come!