

The Blessings of God and Jesus

November 20, 2016

Ephesians 1:1-23

The book of Ephesians is one of encouragement, reminders and obedience.

Paul uses the word “saint” as he introduces this letter. The word “saint” means, “one who has been set **apart**.”

These were Believers (saints) who had put their faith in Jesus Christ. The phrase “in Christ Jesus” is used **27** times in this letter.

The source of our blessings (v.3).

God and Jesus have blessed us with every blessing.

Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Matthew 7:10-11

The scope of our blessings.

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:19**

We are not shielded from pain, struggles, hurt or troubles, but God does promise to supply our needs as He sees fit.

“Not to know and depend on the Holy Spirit's provision is to live a life of spiritual poverty.”

~**Warren Wiersbe**

Unless you have the witness of the Spirit (Rom. 8:15–16), you cannot draw on the wealth of the Spirit. Saved? Do you have the Holy Spirit?

The sphere of our blessings.

Our blessing is in Heavenly places in Christ.

Our life is centered in Heaven. Our citizenship is in Heaven (Phil 3:20), our name is written in Heaven (Luke 10:20), our Father is in Heaven, and our attention and affection should be centered on God and the things of Heaven (Colossians 3:1).

Blessings from God the Father (1:4–6).

He has chosen us (v. 4).

Does Scripture speak of election? Yes. Does Scripture speak of us placing our faith in Jesus (choice)? Yes. How do the two work perfectly together? I don't know but I trust they do.

As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. **Romans 3:10-11**

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My Name He may give you. **John 15:16**

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” **Luke 19:10**

And He chose us for a purpose: to be holy and without blame. In the Bible, election is always unto something. It is a privilege that carries a great responsibility.

God seeks me and calls me out, but I must respond to that Grace and love!

He has adopted us (v. 5).

“Here we meet that misunderstood word predestination. This word, as it is used in the Bible, refers primarily to what God does for saved people. Nowhere in the Bible are we taught that people are predestined to hell, because this word refers only to God's people. The word simply means 'to ordain beforehand, to predetermine.' Election seems to refer to people, while predestination refers to purposes. The events connected with the crucifixion of Christ were predestined (Acts 4:25–28). God has predestined our adoption (Eph. 1:5) and our conformity to Christ (Rom. 8:29–30), as well as our future inheritance (Eph. 1:11). Adoption has a dual meaning, both present and future. You do not get into God's family by adoption. You get into His family by regeneration, the new birth (John 3:1–18; 1 Peter 1:22–25). Adoption is the act of God by which He gives His “born ones” an adult standing in the family.” ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

God did for me what I could not do for myself.

He has accepted us (v. 6).

We cannot make ourselves acceptable to God, but He, by His grace, makes us accepted in Christ.

There is only one way I can be accepted and saved, and that is through Jesus, God's son.

Blessings from God the Son (1:7–12).

He has redeemed us (v. 7a).

To redeem means to purchase and set free by paying a price.

There were some 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire and they were often sold like pieces of furniture. However, one could purchase a slave and then set him free; this is what Jesus did for us.

I have been set free from:

- The **law** (Galatians 5:1)
- **Sin** (Romans 6)
- Power of **Satan** and the world (Galatians 1:4 and Colossians 1:13-14)
- **Myself**

If we were slaves, we would be poor, but because we are Sons, we are rich!

He has forgiven us (v. 7b).

The word “forgive” means “to carry away.”

He has revealed God's Will to us (vv. 8–10).

We live in “New Testament” times. We live in the time after Jesus' time on earth. We have the privilege of knowing Jesus and the Holy Spirit walking with us daily.

He has made us an inheritance (vv. 11-12).

God the Son is the Father's love gift to us; and we are the Father's love gift to His Son.

Just think of that which we inherit when we trust and follow Jesus?

Prayer Focus:

- **If I am a Child of the One True King, I would enjoy God's love.**
- **If I am a Child of the One True King, I would live like it.**
- **If I am a Child of the One True King, then I would share that with others.**
- **If I am an unbeliever, I would place my faith in Jesus.**