

## Every Spiritual Blessing - Ephesians 1:1-14

Today we are going to look at the longest sentence in the Bible.

- Ephesians 1:3-14
- Some translations have periods throughout. But it is widely accepted that Paul intended this as one long thought.

Before we get there, let's see to whom this was written:

**Ephesians 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

- Written to saints. We are the saints.
  - Saint means holy. You are holy.
    - Holy is set apart. So we are set apart by God for His purposes.
- This was a circular letter written by Paul in prison. Circular --> Passed around to all the churches.
  - This by the way, is part of why certain books were canonized.

**The longest sentence in the bible – Paul's run-on grammatical nightmare.**

- Vs. 3-14
- 257 Words in Greek
- About the length of the entire Gettysburg Address.

**We are given every spiritual blessing.**

**Ephesians 1:3** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

- These are spiritual blessings, not physical blessings.
- You have been blessed. So you already have these. You do not need to ask for them, you just need to live by them. Use them.

## Where do these blessings come from?

- We will see 3 places that these gifts come out of. The first place is mentioned in vs. 4-5
- **Ephesians 1:4-5** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- **#1 God's blessings flow from the Sovereignty of God.**
- He chose us. He predestined us. Predestined just means that it is our destiny to become children of God. Not all choose to follow their destiny.
- You can't do anything to get these blessings. You can't earn them. They are according to the good pleasure of His will.

## Blessing #1 – We are holy and blameless

**Ephesians 1:4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

- When we are reborn, we become guiltless. Blameless. We are free of sin. We are no longer sinful beings. That's why Paul opened this letter to the saints.
- If you feel sinful, that is a lie from the enemy
- If you are still bound to sin, that is in your mind and that can be broken.
- The blessing here is that our identity – our spiritual identity is righteous. If God makes us righteous, who are we to say He is wrong.

## Blessing #2 - We have access to His family. A new identity is given.

- **Ephesians 1:5** having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
  - The old is gone. The new is come.
    - **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- We are adopted as sons. I usually read this in my head as sons and daughters. Or maybe children. But I now think that is inaccurate.
- In the spirit, there is no male or female
  - **Galatians 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- This was written to a patriarchy society. Sons were the only ones that could receive an inheritance. So whether you are male or female, you are made the position of son before God.
- In Romans 8, Paul says we are children, and if children then heirs. He had to explain that all children are heirs in God. Here, he uses shorthand and just says sons.

### **Verse 6 explains why these first 2 blessings are given:**

**Ephesians 1:6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

- This is for the glory of God.
- Grace is superior to law because the glory of God demands that only God gets the praise.

### **Verse 6 also reveals the second source of these blessings – Jesus.**

#### **#2 The blessings flow from the sacrifice of the Son.**

- Vs 6 – accepted in the Beloved. Jesus is the Beloved.
- These blessings are costly to God. They are not free. They are not easy. But they are completely from God through Jesus.
- **Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### **Blessing #3 – We have redemption**

**Ephesians 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Because of the sacrifice of Jesus:

We have redemption. The forgiveness of sins.

- Redemption signifies an exchange.
- The wages of sin is death, but Jesus died for us.
- God is a God of love, but also a God of Justice.
- This was given freely and extravagantly.
- These are given according **to** the riches of His grace, **not out of** His grace.
- When something is out of your riches, you have enough to spare. When it is according to your riches, it is everything. Like the woman with the 2 mites.
- Jesus is the riches of God. God could not give more than Himself.

### **Blessing #4 - We gain an insight into the plans of God.**

**Ephesians 1:8-10** which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,<sup>9</sup> having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,<sup>10</sup> that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

- Our salvation shows us the mystery of His will. His will being that we are made perfect sons and daughters of God. The mystery is how God puts Himself in us, to make us His.

Vs 10 – The Kingdom age. Christ reigns physically on the earth and all serve Him and live according to His purposes.

- The church is designed to be a glimpse of the Kingdom age.

## **Blessing #5 – We have received an inheritance**

**Ephesians 1:11-12** In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

- There are 2 parts to an inheritance, just as there are two parts to physical inheritance
  - We have already received the attributes of Christ. We are holy. We are complete. We are the sons of God.
  - We will receive an inheritance. We will rule and reign. We will live in the new Kingdom.

## **Blessing #6 – We received the Holy Spirit**

**Ephesians 1:13-14** In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

### **#3 God's Blessings flow from the sealing of the Holy Spirit.**

- The Spirit unites all believers. We have the same spirit.
- Our blessings are a blessing of security. Our future is secure.
- If you are in Christ then you are in Christ.

We could go on and on about what it is to have the Holy Spirit in us, but that's for later. Right now in this passage we see the blessing of His seal on us. We are marked by Him. Protected by Him. Owned by Him.