

Outline of Ephesians 1–3

- ▶ I. God's eternal purpose in Christ (1:3 – 3:21)
 - A. **Spiritual blessings in Christ (1:3–14)**
 - B. Paul's prayer for them in Christ (1:15–23)
 - 1. Have the spirit of wisdom and revelation (1:15–19)
 - 2. Understand the exalted position of Christ (1:20–21)
 - 3. Know the authority of Christ over the church (1:22–23)
 - C. God's plan for our salvation (2:1–10)
 - D. The difference Christ makes (2:11–22)
 - 1. God's family is different (2:11–12)
 - 2. God's law is different (2:14–15)
 - 3. God's foundation is different (2:20)
 - 4. God's temple is different (2:21–22)
 - E. The church is according to God's eternal purpose (3:1–21)



Ephesians 1:1–14

- ▶ Every spiritual blessing in Christ
- ▶ God the architect
- ▶ Emphasis of where: in Christ
- ▶ “Heavenly places”
 - The realm of spiritual things
 - 1:3; 1:20; 2:6; 3:11; 6:12
- ▶ Are there any spiritual blessings outside Christ?



Christians are Blessed

- ▶ Blessings = gifts bestowed by God
- ▶ True, God provides physical blessings
 - Acts 14:17; 17:28
 - And we pray for them to be provided
- ▶ But greater yet: spiritual provisions, blessings
 - Only in Christ




1:3–14: Seven Major Spiritual Blessings

- ▶ 1:4 “He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world...”
- ▶ 1:5 “Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ by Himself...”
- ▶ 1:6 “By which He made us accepted in the Beloved”
- ▶ 1:7 “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...”
- ▶ 1:9 “Having made known to us the mystery of His will...”
- ▶ 1:11 “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance”
- ▶ 1:14 “In whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise...”

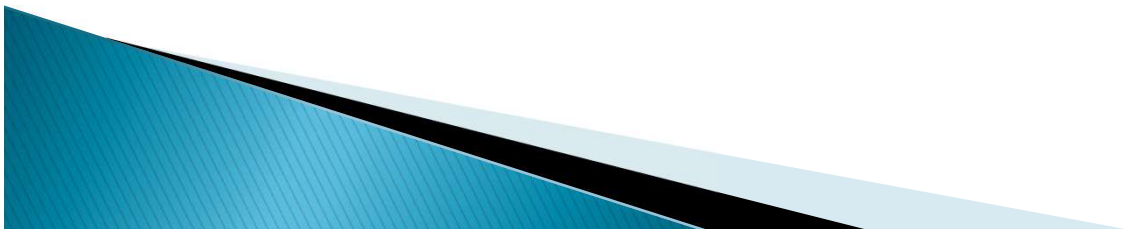


Spiritual Blessing: Chosen in Him

- ▶ Verse 4
 - ▶ Chosen, elected
 - 1 Peter 1:2
 - ▶ Christ was chosen first
 - Isaiah 4:2
 - 1 Peter 1:20; 2:4
 - ▶ Where:
 - In Christ
 - ▶ When:
 - Before the foundation of the world
 - ▶ Objective of the election:
 - That we should be holy and without blame before Him
 - ▶ Did God choose conditionally or unconditionally?
 - Conditionally: In Him
 - Galatians 3:26–27
 - ▶ Nothing here about unconditional election
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Spiritual Blessing: Predestined Us to Adoption

- ▶ Verse 5–6
- ▶ Predestined – predetermined; foreordained; determined beforehand; limits marked out ahead of time
- ▶ Predestined what?
 - The adoption as sons by Jesus Christ
- ▶ Why did God do this?
 - According to the good pleasure of His will
 - 1 Timothy 2:3–4
 - Titus 3:4–7
- ▶ The objective?
 - To the praise of God's grace



Spiritual Blessing: Accepted in the Beloved

- ▶ Verse 6
- ▶ “He has made us accepted” = “*He graced us*” – bestowed grace or favor upon us
- ▶ Where?
 - In the Beloved
 - Matthew 3:17
 - Matthew 17:4
 - Colossians 1:13
- ▶ No longer rejected



Spiritual Blessing: Redemption, the Forgiveness of Sins

- ▶ Verse 7
- ▶ Redemption – release or deliverance from bondage upon payment of a ransom
- ▶ Forgiveness – release from obligation as if the offense had not been committed
 - Psalm 103:12
 - Acts 3:19
- ▶ Through what means?
 - Through His blood – He gave His life
 - Leviticus 17:11
 - Matthew 20:28; 26:28
 - Romans 3:25
 - Colossians 1:19–20
- ▶ Why did He do this?
 - According to the riches of His grace (“the wealth of His charity”)



Redemption by God's grace is the display of divine wisdom and prudence

- ▶ Verse 8
- ▶ The grace abounded – more than enough; not sparingly
 - Romans 6:1–2
- ▶ God's grace displays wisdom and prudence



Spiritual Blessing: Revelation of the divine will

- ▶ Verse 9
- ▶ Mystery: hidden truth
- ▶ But now revealed, declared, and can be understood
- ▶ Ephesians 3:5
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 2:6–13
- ▶ Colossians 1:26–27



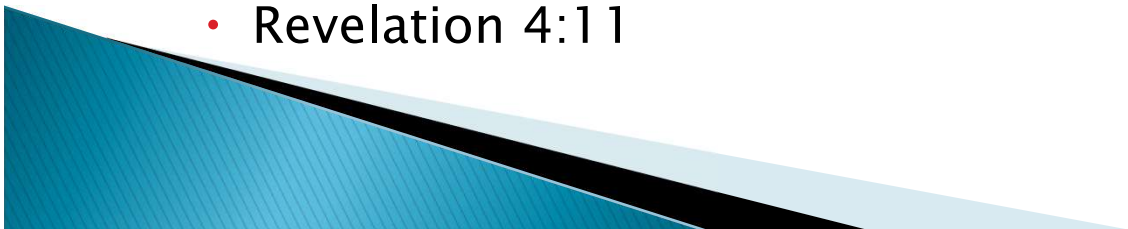
All things brought together in One

- ▶ Verse 10
- ▶ When:
 - In the fullness of time
 - Mark 1:15
 - Galatians 4:4–5
- ▶ In one: Christ
- ▶ All things in heaven and earth under the authority of Christ
 - Ephesians 1:20–21
 - Matthew 28:18



Spiritual Blessing: Obtained an Inheritance

- ▶ Verse 11–12
- ▶ “Made a heritage” (ASV) or chosen as an inheritance
- ▶ We were received as chosen, as an inheritance
- ▶ About who we are, not what we have
 - Deuteronomy 32:9
 - 1 Peter 2:9
- ▶ This was planned, marked out ahead of time, and actively worked (God “predestined” and “works” in verse 11)
 - Philippians 2:12–13
- ▶ Purpose?
 - That we should be to the praise of His glory
 - Isaiah 43:7
 - Revelation 4:11



Spiritual Blessing: Sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise

- ▶ Verses 13–14
- ▶ Sealed – marked as belonging to God
 - 2 Timothy 2:19
- ▶ Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance
 - Assured and guaranteed by the Holy Spirit
 - We have God’s word and promises, spoken by the Holy Spirit
 - True, unchangeable, indestructible
 - Not only known by God, but known by those who are now God’s heritage
 - 1 John 2:3–5
 - Romans 8:16–17
 - 2 Corinthians 1:20–22



Take Aways

- ▶ Emphasis: In Christ
- ▶ All spiritual blessings are in Christ
 - May look for them elsewhere, but will not find them
- ▶ May feel like you are in Christ, but what determines?
- ▶ Greater appreciation for spiritual blessings vs. material
- ▶ To whose praise is all of this?
- ▶ In Christ, how should we live then?

