

**Title:** Blessings Bestowed by God (Part 2)

**Passage:** Ephesians 1:1-14

**Introduction:**

Ephesians 1: reminder of God's spiritual blessings upon believers

- Most important (more than material)

**Overview of Ephesians 1: Blessings Bestowed by God:**

I. Adoption

II. Redemption in Christ

III. Forgiveness of Sins

IV. Revelation of God's purpose in history

V. Inheritance

VI. Sealed by the Holy Spirit

**I. Adoption**

Ephesians 1:5

he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will

**II. Redemption in Christ**

Ephesians 1:7

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace

***Redemption***

- Redeemer = name of Christ

Three words that reflect word "redemption"

- Definition (agorazo) = "to buy from the marketplace"

Titus 2:14

who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- Definition (exa-agorzo) = "to buy out of the marketplace"
  - Once bought, never fear will be sold back into marketplace

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

- Definition (apolotrosis)= "to loose", "to deliver someone by payment of a price"
  - This is the word used in Ephesians 1
  - not just buy one out of the marketplace but also set free!

**Question:** Why talk about slavery and marketplaces?

**Answer:** We were enslaved to sin through the Fall of Man. Apart from God's mercy and grace in rescue, we are held hostage to guilt and shame of our sin.

- the only confession that will save you: through Christ as your Savior and Lord

John 8:34-36

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Hebrews 9:12

[Jesus] entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, *thus securing an eternal redemption.*

1 Peter 1:18-19

knowing that *you were ransomed* from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, *but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*

### III. Forgiveness of Sins

Ephesians 1:7-8

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight

- forgiveness = remission/cancellation of a debt
- Christ's death = no death to be paid for our sins by us
- Trespasses = what we have done when we sin, break God's commandments/law (knowingly or out of ignorance)

**Question:** How are we forgiven?

**Answer:** "according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us" we have been imputed Christ's righteousness.

"In all wisdom and insight"

- God knows all about us and in His sovereignty He chose to forgive us for all our sins (past, present, and future)

1 John 1:8-10

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

### IV. Revelation of God's purpose in history

Ephesians 1:9-11

making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will

- God has revealed to us His plan and purpose for history.
- All things will be united in Him (see Revelation)

“Mystery of his will”

- previously unknown

“In Christ as a plan for the fullness of time”

- revealed in Christ where all things will come under His authority

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **V. Inheritance**

Ephesians 1:11-12

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

### ***Inheritance***

- concept repeated in Bible as God promised an inheritance to Israel
  - See Hebrews 11

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, *to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you*, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Titus 3:5-7

he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace *we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life*.

### ***Greatest inheritance = eternity with God***

Revelation 21:4-5

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

Eternal perspective

- importance to keep focus on eternity

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

## **VI. Sealed by the Holy Spirit**

Ephesians 1:13-14

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

### **Seal**

- picture of process where wax seal/signet that guaranteed the promise and authority reflected on the paper.

### **Holy Spirit**

- first evidence of God's work in you
- How received?
  - "When you heard the word of truth...were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit"

### John 3:5-6

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water *and the Spirit*, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (God washes away our sins as well as gives us His spirit in us)

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

### **Application**

***If not a Christian: repent and turn to Christ for salvation***

### 2 Corinthians 6:2

For he says,

"In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, *now is the day of salvation*.

***If a Christian:***

***Remember your redemption in Christ***

- You are no longer a slave. You have the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome any sin in your life
- Sanctification is like "holy sweat" (it takes sincere effort and focus)

### Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, *for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure*.

- Question: What sin are you working on this year?

*Process in addressing sin:*

- Denial (easy to deny sin's existence)
- Outrage (angry at others who think otherwise)
- Conviction (final acknowledgement of sin and weakness, repentance)

- Renewal through Scripture memorization (repentance involves turning to God continually, be transformed)

***Remember your inheritance in heaven***

***Remember the end of the story, which leads to God***

- nothing happens haphazardly but rather God is in control of all things.

***Remember you have the Holy Spirit***

***Remember all the spiritual blessings you have in Christ and live like that.***