

**Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:
2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

11 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, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 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, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

[The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Eph 1:1–14). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

The big Idea: Everything is to the Praise of His Glory.

My aim: I want to the people who hear this word to be in awestruck wonder of God because i believe that what you adore the most will outshine all other things.

Introduction: Open with Prayer and read the whole text.

- Introduction.

Open With the story of things that changed your life for good.

-Mr. Rizun shaping the rest of my school

- I was a full trouble maker. Violent with my words and body, had been arrested multiple times at this point. Fail to Plan, plan to fail, and the challenge to try in a class and the ensuing results.

-Meeting my wife

-A huge change. Now im accountable to someone.

-The story of buying a really expensive knife like a week after we got back from the honeymoon, and then realizing i couldn't do that any more.

-Having Children

- This hardly needs words, No more sleeping on the ferry, no more napping, no more sleep, did i mention no more sleep. Even when you sleep you think about them..... AAAA

-The most ultimate is when *Jesus Saved me who changes all things in life.*

All Those stories actually changed the course of my life for the good. Taken just on there own they are positive, but in the light of the Salvation afforded to us, they are nothing.

Transition: *We Are going to start by looking at the one who wrote this book a see what happens when the gospel hits fertile ground*

Highlight the Contrast between Saul and Paul

Lets dive into this text and look at the man who wrote this letter and how much this meeting of Jesus changed his life.

*V. 1-2 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:
2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Highlight a couple things about Paul. Contrast the apostleships *Will Of Man, Will of God*

Paul, When he was know as Saul was a self appointed apostle (Sent one)

-At the stoning of Stephen we see Paul approving.

- We read in Acts 9 about Saul receiving paper to round up the Christian's and bring them back in chains.

-Saul is ravaging the church until the moment Jesus Kicks him off his horse and says to him "Saul Saul, Why are you persecuting Me"

Those words must have rung in his ears for the rest of his life, Paul saw this apostleship as divinely appointed as we see him say it was the Will of God.

Hold that in your mind as we look at the rest of this passage.

Move on

"...To the Saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus..."

Highlight the Fact that Ephesus was not known for its Saints.

Who is Paul Talking to?

Quickly look at Ephesus.

-Ephesus was a big city in the ancient World. 250,000 people.

-It was one of the most important **trade** cities in the ancient world

-Today it is about miles inland because of silt but in Pauls Day it was just a sail away.

-It was home to the temple of Artemis (one of the seven wonders of the ancient world)

- It was a melting pot of cultures

- We know there were some Jews there but there wasn't a Huge Jewish community because archeological evidence is thin at this point

Paul knows he is speaking to mostly Gentile Christians. And Paul is calling them Saints, literally Pure, and sacred.

If we examine ourselves and look at our past few days, is saint the word that comes to mind?

- So how does Paul Call them this?

Because they are *in Christ Jesus*. This *"In Christ"* is going to show up in this letter so keep an eye out because it is really important.

MOVE ON

"...Grace to you and Peace From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Point out the irony of Paul's Last visit.

-There was a major riot because the Gospel that Paul preached was devastating the idol makers economy. The Union went Mad.

Ok Lets dive into this Mega sentence.

We are going to break this sentence, that stretches 11 verse into a few Parts.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us ***in Christ*** (there is the *in Christ* again) with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

This "Blessed" is like the text message you get with the huge exclamation marks, and capital letters and confetti on the screen

-Paul is bursting out with praise, and he doesn't stop for something like 202 words. He cannot contain his Joy and he wants these Ephesians to hear why.

What is every Spiritual Blessing in the heavenly Places?

-It is every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

- Knowing that the promises made that look forward into eternity are actually true right this very minute.
- If you are in Christ your should is secure.
- you have an inheritance which includes everything.
- Most importantly, You common with God as his spirit Dwells in you.
- How are we to see material blessings now?

They roll back to Praise to God. You can eat and know that your food comes from the Lord, Material Blessings gain so much more than just a full stomach, they roll up into praise. That is more fulfilling and significant because it carries eternal weight to it.

Chosen In Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless.

“...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.”

You were not an After thought and you holiness is not your own.

-From before the world began, those of us who are in Jesus were chosen by the Father to be holy and Blameless.

-It is Gods choice to save us, He owes us nothing.

-This is his world, and yet do you here what he is saying. You were chosen.

It Is Jesus who makes us holy and Blameless and it is necessary because We Could never stand in his Presence without being holy and Blameless. If you are straight with yourself, you know that you dont make that bar.

-Look at what the Lord Said to Moses

Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

-We Need a holiness that is not our own, and Paul is Saying that God Chose to do that in us..

More on that, Lets Dive into the next Part.

In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

-I dont know where you stand with the idea of Gods “sovereign will” but this Sentence is Packed With Gods Sovereignty and Paul seems to be “A..OK” with it.

-Look at the Words we read so far.

-chosen, predestined, purpose of his will, in all wisdom and insight, mystery of his will, according to his purpose, a plan for the fullness of time.

Paul is Explicitly telling us that God is the **supreme authority** of the universe and He is working out everything according to the Purpose of His Will.

- It Is not easy to mary up the dual realities that we make choices while simultaneously fall under Gods will. His will Supercedes ours.

Pointing out in the and redemption reality -Main point is we dont get to do the redeeming.

What i found really interesting about redeeming

- We first learn about redeeming in Leviticus 25.

-Redeeming somebody was the choice of the redeemer.

-If somebody fell into a situation that they could not get out of and had to sell themselves into slavery, you could redeem them.

-The person being redeemed is unable to do it themselves. *We are entirely unable to redeem ourselves*

- *Paul is going to tell us Later in the Letter that we were Dead in our trespasses and sins. Again just to clarify. We can't do it on our own.*

Why did all of this Have to take Place?

So that his Glorious Grace would be shown and Praised throughout all eternity.

Our trespasses and sins Have separated us From God and so in this redeeming work he has forgiven us according to his grace that we might Praise Him.

And now we reach the Crux of the Whole Bible. The whole story of God in V.9-10

making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Lets Do a quick fly over of the Enormous story.

-God Creates the world good. Adam and eve were in perfect communion with the Lord

-Adam rebelled against the Lords command and fractured the cosmos and brought Death onto all man kind

-Explain a bit of Redemption Theology

-God initiates the Plan that He had *From before the foundation of the world.* To rescue sinners and Glorify His Son so that we might Praise his Glorious Grace.

Do We get this?

We i Look at paul and his overwhelming excitement in this passage and Consider his response to this i ask myself *Why is it that Paul can be seemingly unstoppable and myself so quiet about this Glorious Reality?*

Do we really Grasp the Reality and weight of what Paul is talking about here?

The Crux of the entire Bible Lies in the sentence.

God is uniting all things together Things in heaven and things on earth!!!!!!

2 more things i want us to see today. Lets look at verses 11-14

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, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ 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, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Paul is linking us here to the People of Israel.

- V.12 He says so that we Who were the First to hope in Christ.
- we know the promises in scripture were to the people of Israel.
- They were the one through whom this message was preserved and proclaimed.

Now Paul says, In Him **You Also**....

- What was true for the People Of Israel is true for us.
- The hope Of the Cosmos Being Restored of being back in the garden in full communion is not Just exclusive to the Ethnic People Of Israel, it includes us.
- Paul is saying that We also are part of this.
- This is Glorious people.

Lastly, Look at what we were sealed with. The Promised Holy Spirit.

What Does that Mean?

- You are more secure that you think if you are in Christ.
- the Spirit Is dwelling in you.
- You are can stumble and Waver, But our God Has shown that His Purposes cannot be thwarted, He has been proving time and time again that his Sovriegnty is Perfect.

The Entire Godhead Is at Work in all of this!

- God the Father choose us and is working out his Plan for the Fullness of Time
- God The Son Saves us, through his Perfect obedience He has Redeemed us from death
- God the Spirit Secures us until the Fullness of time is here.

What does that Mean For us today?

- Like Paul, Who Meditated on this for so Long, we need to believe this fully.
- Meditate on this passage.

I know that during this week, the more i sat on this passage and considered the immeasurable riches of his Grace and sovereignty i was humbled over and over again. This Passage is so profound and Paul is bursting at the Seams to help us understand the incredible riches of his Glory.

People, There is no Greater thing to give your life for in this day. We need to be People who are so affected by this reality that we can Passionatly Proclaim the Glory Of God for the Joy of all people. There is no greater Calling and God has called us to Play in This Grand Story of His

Lets Pray