

Ephesians 1:3-14 Six Blessings In Christ

Subject: What Are The Spiritual Blessings We Have In Christ that should cause us to bless God?

Complements:

1. We were chosen.
2. We were predestined to adoption as sons.
3. We were redeemed through His blood.
4. The mystery of His will was made known to us.
5. We obtained an inheritance.
6. We were sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

Paul begins this passage by blessing God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. He is worthy of all blessing and praise. You and I have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. He has not withheld any of His blessings from us. He has given us every one of them.

(Eph 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."

In the first part of Deuteronomy 28, Moses gives us the various blessings for being obedient to God's commands. He said that if we diligently obey the LORD our God, and were careful to do all His commandments, all these blessings shall come upon us and overtake us. Then, Moses gives us all kinds of blessings. He says that we will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. It does not matter where we are, God promises to bless us. He says that He will bless the offspring of our body and the produce of the ground, and the offspring of our beasts, herds, and flocks. He promises to bless our basket and kneading bowl. He promises to bless us when we come in and when we go out. He promises to make our enemies flee from us and make us victorious. He promises to bless our barns, and the work of our hands. He promises to bless our land. There are numerous blessings that we are given for being obedient to His commands.

(Deuteronomy 28:1-14) ""Now it shall be, if you will diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. {2} "And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you will obey the LORD your God. {3} "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. {4} "Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. {5} "Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. {6} "Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. {7} "The LORD will cause your enemies who rise up against you to be

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defeated before you; they shall come out against you one way and shall flee before you seven ways. {8} "The LORD will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you. {9} "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you will keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and walk in His ways. {10} "So all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of you. {11} "And the LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. {12} "The LORD will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. {13} "And the LORD shall make you the head and not the tail, and you only shall be above, and you shall not be underneath, if you will listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully, {14} and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them."

Then, in Deuteronomy 28:15-68, God promises all kinds of curses. These curses are based on our disobedience. The blessings and the curses were all based on our actions.

In Galatians 3:13-14, Paul writes that Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us. He goes on to say that He did this so that we could obtain in Christ Jesus the blessings of Abraham. Notice that it is in Christ that we have the blessings. All of us have sinned and deserved the curse. However, Jesus lived a perfect and sinless life. Paul writes in Philippians that Jesus lived a perfectly obedient life, even to the point of death on a cross. His obedience, according to the law deserved all the blessings. Jesus took our sins and our curses so that we could have his righteousness and His blessings. This spiritual transaction should cause us to be full of gratitude and praise to Him.

(Galatians 3:13-14) "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"-- {14} in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

(2 Corinthians 5:21) "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

(Philippians 2:8) "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Observations:

(Ephesians 1:3-14) "**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,** {4} just 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 to adoption** as sons **through Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, {6} **to the praise of the glory** of His grace, which He freely bestowed on 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} **He made known to us the mystery of His will,** according to His kind intention which He purposed **in Him** {10} with a view to an administration suitable to the fulness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things **in Christ,** things in the heavens and things upon the earth. **In Him** {11} also **we have obtained an inheritance,** having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, {12} to the end that we who were the first to hope **in Christ** should be **to the praise of His glory.** {13} **In Him,** you also, after **listening** to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also **believed,** you **were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,** {14} who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, **to the praise of His glory."**

1. We see 11 references to being "in Christ" or "in Him" or "in the Beloved." I have these highlighted in purple. All the blessings that we have are in Christ. This is because of the spiritual transaction that took place. Outside of Christ, we have none of these blessings. In Christ we have every or all of these spiritual blessings.
2. We see the spiritual blessings highlighted in green. There are six spiritual blessings that are given here. In my opinion, these are just six "biggies" that Paul mentions. We actually have "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." The word spiritual is pneumatikos, which means of the Spirit or given by the Spirit. When God gives us a revelation from His word, that is a spiritual blessing. When He answers a prayer, that is a spiritual blessing. When He sends provision for us, that is a spiritual blessing. I consider all the blessings in Deuteronomy spiritual blessings, as God, who is Spirit, is the source of the blessings. I do not rule out any physical blessings because the word spiritual precedes blessing.

What are these six spiritual blessings that Paul mentions?

- a. He chose us before the foundation of the world.
- b. He predestined us to adoption as sons.
- c. He redeemed us through His blood.
- d. He made known to us the mystery of His will.
- e. He gave us an inheritance.
- f. He sealed us with the Holy Spirit.

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3. Next, we see highlighted in blue four specific actions on our part. All these spiritual blessings do not depend on you and I. They were based on Christ's obedience and His actions. These spiritual blessings were all given to us on God's initiative, not ours. However, there are three actions given for us.
 - a. The first action is listening to the message of truth, the gospel of our salvation. There are some who choose not to listen. We must pray for God to soften their hearts and give them an openness.
 - b. The second action is believing. We must accept and believe the gospel. We must believe the gospel in our heart, which results in righteousness, and we must confess with our mouths, resulting in salvation. For most of us, we have all heard the gospel and believed. These are actions that have already been done and we do not need to apply them in our lives. We need to share these truths with others, but these two actions have already taken place.
 - c. The third action is found in verse four, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. As a result of being chosen by God, our response should be to live a holy and blameless life before Him. By the way, those last two words of that phrase should help us with the rest of it. Our lives are before Him. There is nothing hidden from God. He knows our thoughts. He knows our actions. There are no secrets in our lives. You or I may hide something from each other, but it is not hidden from Him. We should live in fear and reverence, which should help us live a holy and blameless life before Him.
 - d. The fourth action is highlighted in yellow and it is the main thrust of the passage. Paul begins by blessing the God and Father of our Lord Jesus who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. The other phrase that is used three times is "to the praise of His glory." All of these spiritual blessings should cause us to praise and glorify God. This is Paul's main thought. In fact, this whole passage, verses 3-14, is all one sentence in the Greek. Scholars say that this is the longest single sentence in all Greek literature, which also includes the Bible. If we go back to our English 101, we remember that every sentence has one complete thought. The one thought of this long and complicated sentence is that you and I should bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ because He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. The rest of the sentence are all descriptive phrases letting us know what some of these spiritual blessings are.

We are not going to look at all six of these blessings in detail this morning. I do want to take some time this morning to look at two of those blessings and the applications for us in our lives.

I. Chosen By God

Paul writes that we have been chosen before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. There was a purpose mentioned here for His choosing of us. I want to take a quick look at what Scripture says about our choosing.

(Eph 1:4) "just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him."

First of all, let me mention the reason that He did not choose us. Deuteronomy tells us that He did not choose Israel because they were more in number. In other words, it wasn't because of their size, prominence, power or any other meritorious reason. At that time, they were the fewest of all the peoples.

(Deu 7:6-10) ""For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. {7} "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, {8} but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. {9} "Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; {10} but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face."

1. **He chose us because He loves us.** (Deut 7:6-10, Deu 4:36-38, Deu 10:15) God chose Israel because He loved them. You and I were loved by God before He chose us. He chose us because He loved us.

(Deu 4:36-38) ""Out of the heavens He let you hear His voice to discipline you; and on earth He let you see His great fire, and you heard His words from the midst of the fire. {37} "Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them. And He personally brought you from Egypt by His great power, {38} driving out from before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in and to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is today."

(Deu 10:15) ""Yet on your fathers did the LORD set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, even you above all peoples, as it is this day."

2. **He chose us to be His possession.** (Deut 7:6-10) God chose Israel to be His own possession. God wanted His own people. He wanted a people to identify with and have relationship with. He wanted a people to that He could have a covenant

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relationship with. Peter also mentions that we are a chosen race, a people for God's own possession.

(1 Pet 2:9) "But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"

3. **He chose us to be holy and blameless.** Paul writes in Ephesians for us to be holy and blameless. In Colossians, he writes for us to put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. We find the same thought in the Old Testament. Moses records in Genesis 18 that God chose Abraham, so that he would command his children and household to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice. He has chosen us to be holy and blameless. Gen 18:17-19, Eph 1:4, Col 3:12-13

(Col 3:12-13) "And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; {13} bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you."

(Gen 18:17-19) "And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, {18} since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? {19} "For I have chosen him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice; in order that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.""

4. **He chose us to bless us.** He has chosen us to fulfill His blessings which He has for our life that came through His covenant with us. Gen 18:17-19

(Gen 18:17-19) "And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, {18} since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? {19} "For I have chosen him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice; in order that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.""

5. **He chose us to obey Him and to be sprinkled with His blood.** (1 Pet 1:1-2) Peter writes to tell us that we have been chosen so that we can obey Him and be sprinkled with His blood. The sprinkling of blood brings forgiveness and cleanness. The blood also brings protection.

(1 Pet 1:1-2) "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen {2} according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure."

6. He chose us to serve Him. (Deu 18:5, Deut 21:5, 2 Chr 29:11)

(Deu 18:5) ""For the LORD your God has chosen him and his sons from all your tribes, to stand and serve in the name of the LORD forever."

(Deu 21:5) ""Then the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come near, for the LORD your God has chosen them to serve Him and to bless in the name of the LORD; and every dispute and every assault shall be settled by them."

(2 Chr 29:11) ""My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before Him, to minister to Him, and to be His ministers and burn incense.""

7. He chose us to worship Him. He wants His chosen to worship and bless His name. He also wants us to bless others. (2 Chronicles 29:11, 1 Pet 2:9)

(2 Chronicles 29:11) ""My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before Him, to minister to Him, and to be His ministers and burn incense.""

(1 Pet 2:9) "But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"

8. He chose us to be peacemakers. God wants His people to settle disputes and assaults. He wants us to learn to be peacemakers. God has chosen us for the ministry of reconciliation. (Deu 21:5, 2 Cor 5:18-19)

(Deu 21:5) ""Then the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come near, for the LORD your God has chosen them to serve Him and to bless in the name of the LORD; and every dispute and every assault shall be settled by them."

(2 Cor 5:18-19) "Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, {19} namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

9. He chose us to carry His name. A person's name is significant. It carries the authority and identity of a person. God has chosen us to carry His name. He has also given us His signet ring, which is another symbol of His name and authority. (2 Chr 7:16, Acts 9:15) (2 Chr 7:16) ""For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that My name may be there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually."

(Acts 9:15) "But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;"

10. He chose us for a dwelling place. God wants to inhabit or live in the midst of His people. He has chosen us for a habitation. Psa 132:13, 1 Cor 6:19-20, Matt 12:18-21

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(Psa 132:13) "For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation."

(1 Cor 6:19) "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?"

(Mat 12:18-21) ""BEHOLD, MY SERVANT WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN; MY BELOVED IN WHOM MY SOUL is WELL-PLEASED; I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT UPON HIM, AND HE SHALL PROCLAIM JUSTICE TO THE GENTILES. {19} "HE WILL NOT QUARREL, NOR CRY OUT; NOR WILL ANYONE HEAR HIS VOICE IN THE STREETS. {20} "A BATTERED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK OFF, AND A SMOLDERING WICK HE WILL NOT PUT OUT, UNTIL HE LEADS JUSTICE TO VICTORY. {21} "AND IN HIS NAME THE GENTILES WILL HOPE.""

11. He chose us to obtain His salvation. He chose us so that we could know and believe the Lord. He has chosen us so that we might have salvation. (2 Tim 2:10)

(2 Tim 2:10) "For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory."

12. To go and bear fruit. God has chosen us to be fruit bearers and that our fruit should remain. (John 15:16)

(John 15:16) ""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 of the Father in My name, He may give to you."

II. Predestined to Adoption

(Eph 1:4-6) "In love {5} He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, {6} to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."

There are two specific areas of adoption that I would like to look at: the time element and the privileges. There are three considerations to the time element.

1. The Adoption Time Element

a. **It is past tense.** In our text, Paul says that we have been predestined to adoption as sons. The decision to adopt us has already been predetermined by God. This is past tense. Paul also tells us in Romans 8:15 says that we have received the spirit of adoption. Verse 16 says that the Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. This is not a future tense, but is a present tense. Once we have received Christ and received the spirit of adoption, we are adopted children of God.

(Rom 8:15-16) "For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear

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again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" {16} The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,"

- b. **It is a future event.** It is a future event which will take place. Romans 8:19 says that creation is anxiously longing for the revealing of the sons of God. Verse 23 says that we eagerly wait for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. Galatians 4:5 also says that we might receive the adoption as sons. This is referring to a future event, not something that has already taken place.

(Rom 8:19-23) "For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. {20} For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope {21} that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. {22} For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. {23} And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body."

(Gal 4:5) "in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

- c. **It has present implications.** Because we are His children, we are to walk in the light as He Himself is in the light. We are to walk in His love. We are to become like Him, conformed to His image. We are also to suffer with Him. We are to be His witnesses here on earth. We are to be lights to the world. We are to fellowship with Him. We are to be actively involved in the family of God. Everyone in my family has responsibilities.

(Rom 8:16-18) "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, {17} and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. {18} For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

(Eph 5:1-2) "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; {2} and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma."

(Phil 2:14-15) "Do all things without grumbling or disputing; {15} that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,"

2. **The Adoption Privileges** When the Bible says that we have been adopted as sons, what does this mean? What are the rights and privileges and blessings that come into our life

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through this adoption.

- a. **We come into legal relationship with the Lord.** Not everyone can call someone daddy. Only those children who belong to Daddy. I know lots of children, but they are not all my children. I am only responsible for those who are mine. This relationship is extremely significant. It is now the Father's responsibility to care for His children. It is the Father's responsibility to look out and watch after His children. It is the Father's responsibility to train up His children and to discipline them.

(Rom 8:15) "For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!""

There are certain legal fees incurred with adoption. Randy Crofton, who was one for a member of our church in Atlanta called me to tell me they were adopting another baby. They are wanting to adopt another baby. Their first baby costs them \$25,000.00 in legal fees. Little Jake did not pay these legal fees. Randy has had to pay them. They struggled financially to adopt Jake.

There were legal fees when you and I were adopted. When Jesus was on the cross, He bowed His head and said the word "teleo," which means, it is paid in full. Jesus paid for our adoption with His blood. We have been redeemed or purchased through the blood of Christ. It was very costly. Jesus did not want to go through it. He asked the Father to take the cup from Him, but not His will, but the Father's will be done. It was painful to Him; it was a struggle for Him, yet He paid the price for us.

(John 19:30) "When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit."

(1 Cor 6:19-20) "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? {20} For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."

(Acts 20:28) ""Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

- b. **We become intimate with the Lord and experience His love.** We received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!". The word Abba literally means daddy. It is an expression of intimacy and love. I talk about things with my children that I do not talk to my relatives about. My children see me in different settings that others do not see me in. They see me in my pajamas at times. They are welcome to come to me at any time on any day. They have free access because of the intimacy.

My children receive affection like hugs and kisses that are not given to outsiders. My

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children give kisses and hugs to me. We have the privilege of worshiping the Father in intimacy. The word for worship in the Greek is *proskuneo*, which means to kiss towards. This is made possible because of our intimacy with Him. The more intimate we become, the easier it is to worship Him.

(Rom 8:15) "For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!""

He says in 1 John 3:1 to behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us, that we should be called children of God. 1 John 4:7-8 says that we should love one another for everyone that loves is born of God and knows God. He that loves not does not know God, for God is love.

(Eph 1:4-5) "In love {5} He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ;"

(1 John 3:1) "See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."

(1 John 4:7-8) "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. {8} The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

- c. **We receive the name of the Lord.** With the name come all the rights and privileges associated with that name. It is in the name of Christ that we have all our benefits. It is in the name of Christ that we have power and authority over demons and principalities. The word for name in Greek is *onoma*, which means has inherent in its meaning two words, authority and character.

(Eph 3:14-15) "For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, {15} from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,"

- d. **We become joint heirs with Christ.** When we become children of God, all that the Father has now belongs to us. We are all part of the family of God and all that the Father has is ours. All the resources are available to us. An inheritance is passed on after the death of the one who owns it. Through the death of Christ, we have received an inheritance of incredible magnitude.

(Rom 8:16-17) "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, {17} and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him."

(Gal 4:1-7) "Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, {2} but he is under guardians and

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managers until the date set by the father. {3} So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. {4} But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, {5} in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. {6} And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" {7} Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God."

III. He Redeemed Us. (Ephesians 1:7-8) The third spiritual blessing that Paul mentions is redemption. He says, "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." As with all the other spiritual blessings, we have them because of Christ. It is in Him that we have been chosen. It is in Him that we have been predestined to adoption as sons. It is in Him that we have redemption through His blood.

(Ephesians 1:7-8) "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"

What is redemption? In the Old Testament, when someone was enslaved, a redemption price had to be paid to set the person free. This redemption price could be paid by his family, relatives, or by himself. The purchase price was partially determined by the number of years left until jubilee. In the year of Jubilee, all the slaves were set free. Therefore, the closer to the year of Jubilee, the lower the cost of redemption. We find more details about this in Leviticus 25:47-54.

(Leviticus 25:47-55) "Now if the means of a stranger or of a sojourner with you becomes sufficient, and a countryman of yours becomes so poor with regard to him as to sell himself to a stranger who is sojourning with you, or to the descendants of a stranger's family, {48} then he shall have redemption right after he has been sold. One of his brothers may redeem him, {49} or his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or one of his blood relatives from his family may redeem him; or if he prospers, he may redeem himself. {50} 'He then with his purchaser shall calculate from the year when he sold himself to him up to the year of jubilee; and the price of his sale shall correspond to the number of years. It is like the days of a hired man that he shall be with him. {51} 'If there are still many years, he shall refund part of his purchase price in proportion to them for his own redemption; {52} and if few years remain until the year of jubilee, he shall so calculate with him. In proportion to his years he is to refund the amount for his redemption. {53} 'Like a man hired year by year he shall be with him; he shall not rule over him with severity in your sight. {54} 'Even if he is not redeemed by these means, he shall still go out in the year of jubilee, he and his sons with him. {55} 'For the sons of

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Israel are My servants; they are My servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God."

The application for us is that we were all slaves to sin. Paul says in Romans that thanks be to God that though we were slaves of sin, we became obedient from the heart and became slaves of righteousness. How did we get free from being slaves to sin? Jesus paid a redemption price for us. He redeemed us from slavery. This includes release from the guilt and the deserved punishment for sin. Later on Paul says that there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death. If you have been struggling with guilt, shame, rejection, and condemnation, this morning God wants you to know that He has redeemed you. He has bought you. He paid a price for you. He has set you free from that sin master. You have been freed from all of that and are free to serve Christ. Hallelujah!

(Romans 6:16-18) "Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? {17} But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, {18} and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."

(Romans 8:1-2) "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. {2} For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death."

IV. He made known the mystery of His will. (Ephesians 1:8-10) God had a plan to redeem mankind. In His foreknowledge, He knew that we would sin and would need a Savior. It was His plan to send His Son, the Lamb of God, to redeem us. It was His plan to save men from every tribe and tongue on earth. The Savior was going to be from the seed of Abraham, and more specifically from the child of promise, Isaac. The mystery was how all nations were going to be saved.

(Ephesians 1:8-10) "which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight {9} He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him {10} with a view to an administration suitable to the fulness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth. In Him"

Paul speaks of this mystery a number of times. In Romans he tells them that he does not want them to be uninformed about this mystery and that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in.

(Romans 11:25) "For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has

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happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles has come in;"

In Ephesians 3, Paul speaks of this mystery again, saying that in these last days the mystery has been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets. He also clearly states that the mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

(Ephesians 3:4-6) "And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, {5} which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; {6} to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

This is good news for the people in Ephesus, who were primarily Gentiles. God's plan included them. Paul was made a minister to the Gentiles so that they could enter into God's promises. That is good news for us. Salvation is available to all of us. We are not discriminated against. Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

(Romans 1:16) "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

V. We obtained an inheritance. (Ephesians 1:10-12) In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance. An inheritance is not something that is earned. It is something that is passed down from the family from one generation to the next. In the Old Testament, the twelve tribes were each given an allotment of land. The tribes passed down their inheritance of land to each succeeding generation.

(Ephesians 1:10-12) "...In Him {11} also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, {12} to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory."

The Greek word for inheritance is kleroo and it is only used twice in the Bible, here and in Hebrews 1:4. The root word is kleros, which is used 13 times. It is used in a number of ways. When the soldiers cast lots for Jesus' garments, the word kleros is used for the casting of lots. It is translated as inheritance in Colossians 1:12. In 1 Peter 5:3, Peter exhorts the elders to shepherd the flock carefully, not lording over those who have been allotted to their care, but to be examples. The word allotted is kleros.

The significance of the inheritance is not land as in the Old Testament. God has many other riches and blessings that we have inherited. All the promises that were given to the

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Jews also apply to us. All the benefits and blessings of the Jews also applies to us. We are not second class citizens; we are part of the family of God and we are co-heirs of the inheritance.

VI. We were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise. (Ephesians 1:13-14)
Paul says that after listening and believing the gospel, we were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise. All believers receive the seal of the Holy Spirit.

(Ephesians 1:13-14) "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, {14} who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."

In the ancient world, a seal was the form of identification used to authenticate and protect legal documents. Kings would put their seal on a document, generally with a ring. The imprint that the ring left on the clay or wax that was used showed the legitimacy of the document.

(Esther 3:10) "Then the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews."

In the same way, the seal of the Holy Spirit signifies the legitimacy of a believer. The seal of the Holy Spirit authenticates our lives. The work of the Holy Spirit in us makes us a very different people. It was the seal of the Holy Spirit that convinced the Jews that God's salvation had also been given to the Gentiles.

(Acts 10:44-45) "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. {45} And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also."

The Holy Spirit leads us (Romans 8:14).

(Romans 8:14) "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

The Holy Spirit bears fruit in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23).

(Galatians 5:22-23) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

The Holy Spirit teaches us and reminds us of God's word (1 John 2:27).

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(1 John 2:27) "And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him."

The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).

(John 16:8) ""And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment;"

The Holy Spirit distributes gifts to us for us to use to serve the body (1 Corinthians 12:11).

(1 Corinthians 12:11) "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills."

One of the really nice things that the Holy Spirit does in our lives is reveal things to us. Paul writes to the Corinthians that we have received the Spirit of God so that we can know the things freely given to us by God (1 Corinthians 2:10-12).

(1 Corinthians 2:10-12) "For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. {11} For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. {12} Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God,"

The Holy Spirit also comforts us when we need comfort. He is called the Parakletos or Comforter (John 14:16).

(John 14:16) "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter (parakletos), that he may abide with you for ever;"

We were told in Luke to stay in Jerusalem until we were clothed with power from on high. Therefore, the saints prayed and waited in Jerusalem until Pentecost, when they were filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49). This empowering by the Holy Spirit was so that we could fulfill the Great Commission (Acts 1:8).

(Luke 24:49) ""And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.""

(Acts 1:8) "but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;

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and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.""

Finally, Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:18 that we are not to be drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but we are to be filled with the Spirit. Many of the provisions of the Holy Spirit are released in us when we are filled with the Spirit. We must learn to drink daily from the Holy Spirit. This sets us apart from the world. The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives shows the authenticity of the believer.

(Ephesians 5:18-20) "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, {19} speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; {20} always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;"

Introduction (Deut 28:1-14, 15-68, Gal 3:13, 2 Cor 5:21, Phil 2:8)

Blessings in Deuteronomy 28 are based on our _____.

Curses in Deuteronomy 28 are based on our _____.

Jesus _____ us from the curse. (Gal 3:13)

Blessings in Ephesians are based on Christ's _____.

Observations:

1. There are _____ references to being "in Christ" or "in Him."
2. Six spiritual blessings mentioned by Paul
 - a. He _____ us before the foundation of the world.
 - b. He predestined us to _____ adoption as sons.
 - c. He _____ us through His blood.
 - d. He made known to us the _____ of His will.
 - e. He gave us an _____.
 - f. He _____ us with the Holy Spirit.
3. There are three actions given for us.
 - a. The first action is _____ to the message of truth.
 - b. The second action is _____.
 - c. The third action is to be _____ and _____.
 - d. The fourth action is to _____ God.

I. Chosen By God (Eph 1:4, Deut 7:6-10)

1. He chose us because He _____ us. (Deut 7:6-10, Deu 4:36-38, Deu 10:15)
2. He chose us to be His _____. (Deut 7:6-10, 1 Pet 2:9)
3. He chose us to be _____ and _____. (Gen 18:17-19, Eph 1:4, Col 3:12-13)
4. He chose us to _____ us. (Gen 18:17-19)
5. He chose us to _____ Him and to be sprinkled with His blood. (1 Pet 1:1-2)
6. He chose us to _____ Him. (Deut 18:5, 21:5, 2 Chr 29:11)
7. He chose us to _____ Him. (2 Chr 29:11, 1 Pet 2:9)
8. He chose us to be _____. (Deut 21:5, 2 Cor 5:18-19)
9. He chose us to carry His _____. (2 Chr 7:16, Ac 9:15)
10. He chose us for a _____. (Ps 132:13, 1 Cor 6:19-20, Matt 12:18-21)
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II. Predestined to Adoption (Eph 1:4-6)

1. The Adoption Time Element

- It is past tense. (Rom 8:15-16)
- It is a future event. (Rom 8:19-23, Gal 4:5)
- It has present implications. (Rom 8:16-18, Eph 5:1-2, Phil 2:14-15)

2. The Adoption Privileges

- We come into _____ relationship with the Lord. (Rom 8:15, Jn 19:30, 1 Cor 6:19, Ac 20:28)
- We become _____ with the Lord and experience His love. (Rom 8:15, Eph 1:4-5, 1 Jn 3:1, 4:7-8)
- We receive the _____ of the Lord. (Eph 3:14-15)
- We become joint _____ with Christ. (Rom 8:16-17, Gal 4:1-7)

III. He Redeemed Us. (Eph 1:7-8)

Redemption is paying the price to set a _____ free. (Lev 25:47-55)
Christ paid the price to set us free from _____. (Rom 6:16-18, 8:1-2)

IV. He made known the mystery of His will. (Eph 1:8-10, Rom 11:25)

The mystery is that salvation is available to _____ also. (Eph 3:4-6, Rom 1:16)

V. We obtained an inheritance. (Eph 1:10-12)

The significance of the inheritance is that we are _____ - _____.

VI. We were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise. (Eph

1:13-14, Ac 10:44-45)

Seals _____ and _____ legal documents. (Esther 3:10)

The seal of the Holy Spirit _____ our salvation.

The H.S. _____ us (Rom 8:14).

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We need to be continually _____ with the H.S. (Eph 5:18-20)

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