

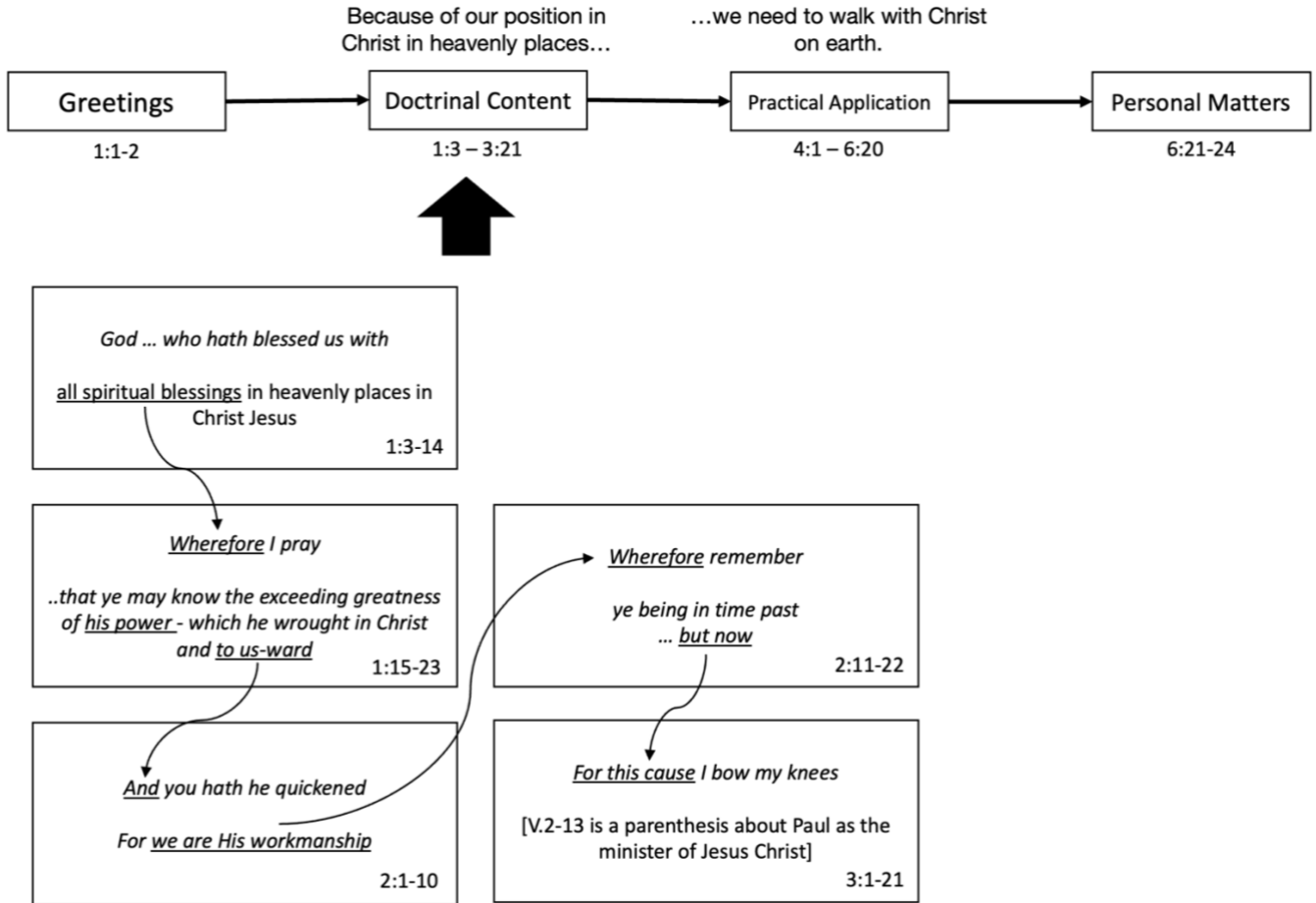


MZBMP

TITLE:

Ephesians 1:3 – All Spiritual Blessings in Heavenly Places in Christ

DOCTRINAL CONTENT:



INTRODUCTION OF THE SECTION:

- 1:3-14 is the longest sentence in the Greek New Testament as well as in all Greek literature.
- Paul, by divine inspiration, declares the believer's "all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" using 205 Greek words.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

⁴ According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

⁵ Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

⁸ Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

⁹ Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

¹⁰ That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

¹¹ In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

¹² That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

¹³ In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

- 1:3 tells the subject of the section: "all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ". These blessings are listed in 1:4-14.
- This section can be divided into five segments:
 1. Chosenness - "he hath chosen us" (1:4)
 2. Predestination - "Having predestinated us" (1:5-6)
 3. Redemption - "we have redemption" (1:7)
 4. Mystery of His Will - "Having made known unto us the mystery of his will" (1:8-10)
 5. Inheritance - "we have obtained an inheritance" (1:11-14)
- The phrases "in Christ", "by Jesus Christ", "in the beloved", and "in whom" appear 9 times.
- God's blessings for us is:
 - According to the good pleasure of His will (1:5)
 - According to the riches of His grace (1:7)
 - According to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself (1:9)
 - According to the purpose of him (1:11)
- The purpose of God's blessing:
 - To the praise of the glory of His grace (1:6)
 - To the praise of His glory (1:12)
 - Unto the praise of His glory (1:14)

ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST (1:3):

- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Paul began this section with the verbal adjective “Blessed”.
 - The word (Εὐλογητός - eulogētos) means adorable or blessed.
 - It appears 8 times in the New Testament and it is only applied to God.
 - This word deals with the fact of God’s nature of being blessed and praised.
 - NIV translated it as “praise be to the God” weakening its word and treating it as optative (expresses a wish or hope) that requires action on man’s part.
 - The Father Who is identified as God is related to the Lord Jesus Christ as His Father.
- God the Father hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.
 - The Father is the One “Who hath blessed us.”
 - The blessings are for “us”. This refers to the saints and faithful in Christ Jesus (1:2). This refers to all who heard the word of truth and trusted and believed in Jesus Christ (1:13). Paul includes himself.
 - The word “hath blessed” is in aorist tense, describing a mixture of past tense and perfective. God’s blessings are accomplished, finished, and sure.
 - God’s blessings are spiritual.
 - God’s blessings are in heavenly places in Christ.
 - God’s blessings are “all” or “every”. This is a description of infinite, all encompassing blessings.