"Spiritual Blessings"

The Church's Calling

Ephesians 1:3-6

Our blessings are part of God's ***:***

I. Plan - "He hath chosen " (vs. 4)

God's grace is about a:

A. Person *– "us in Him"*

B. Purpose *–"that we should be holy"*

C. Passion *– "in love"*

II. Pleasure – "according to the good pleasure of His " (vs. 5)

God's grace has an :

A. Intent *–"predestined us unto the adoption of sons"*

B. Instrument *- "by Jesus Christ to Himself"*

C. Intensity *–"good pleasure of His will"*

III. Praise - "To the praise of …grace" (v. 6, 3)

God's grace leaves us with an:

A. Amazement *–"the glory of His Grace"*

B. Acceptance *– "made us accepted "*

C. Advantage *–"with all spiritual blessings"*

Sentence Sermon:

"God's Amazing Grace makes Us Holy and Accepted in the Beloved."

Additional Verses

- ***Blessed***
  - ***Mark 14:61***
  - ***Luke 1:68***
  - ***Romans 1:25; 9:5***
  - ***II Corinthians 1:3; 11:31***
  - ***I Peter 1:3***
- ***Eternal Blessings***
  - ***II Corinthians 4:18***
  - ***Colossians 3:1-4***
- ***Believers Love***
  - ***Ephesians 3:17; 4:2; 4:15-17; 5:2***
- ***Called/Chosen/Predestined***
  - ***II Thessalonians 2:14***
  - ***Acts 4:28***
  - ***Romans 8:29-30***
  - ***I Corinthians 2:7***
  - ***Ephesians 1:11***

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. What are some of the spiritual blessings that we have in Christ?
- 2. Why do you suppose Christ chose to redeem mankind?
- 3. What are the important distinctions between predestination and election?
- 4. What do others religions teach about the believers' relationship with God as contrasted to adopted sons in this passage?

INTRODUCTION

Words – "in Christ" – 27 times ;
> Predestination = always connected to our Sanctification
> God "choosing" "election" = always connected to Jesus Christ
Discussion of Calvinism vs. Arminianism…Biblicism !

V. 3

- **Blessed = used 3 times in this verse – "eulogeto" is the adjective form and only is used in NT for God…He is the one who blesses and therefore He is the one to be Praised !!**
- **Our Lord Jesus Christ = compare with verse 2 …Our Father…We belong to the Father….Jesus belongs to us**
- **Who has blessed us = past tense participle …indicating sometime in eternity past**
- **With all spiritual blessings = these are spiritual not physical like those of Goddess Diana --- these are for spiritual benefit for a spiritual life now.**
- **In heavenly places - = this is where the blessings are from…it is the realm which they operate… and speaks to long lasting = eternal…not temporal**
- **In Christ Jesus = This is where you have to be to have them and how you get them.**

V. 4

- **According as =** God should be praised because….Our spiritual blessings all come from Him…Father (4-6); Son (7-12); Holy Spirit (13-14)
- He has chosen us= God reached out to us…not man reaching out to Him…
- In Him = In Jesus we are chosen and through faith in Him we believe
- Before the foundation of the world = 1. God's plan of redemption was ready before Eden. 2. God wanted us before we ever did anything good or bad. 3. God already knew about our past, present, and future before we were ever born and still chose to love us.
- That we should live holy = God redeems sinners to turn them into saints with the intent for us to live holy lives.
- Without blame = without blemish
- Before Him =Jesus is the judge and we should please Him
- In Love = (3:17; 4:2; 4:15-16; 5:2 – all talking about the believer's love) modifies how we live holy lives…It is the balance of living holy… hating sin … while loving sinners --- this is a statement against Legalism….Romans 14 living.

v. 5

- Having predestined us = this is referring to what God did before choosing us in verse 4….THIS is what He was THINKING when He went out looking for us.
- Unto the adoption of children = God wants children and a family ….not a contract and a lawsuit…This is the difference between the God of the Bible and other faiths….Jehovah Elohim talks about family and when He does…He is talking about you and me.
- By Jesus Christ = can it be any CLEARER…HE is the way that we enter into God's forever family
- To Himself = The way to the Father is through the Son –John 14:6
- According to the good pleasure of His will = God willed it to be that there would be a way provided for man to be saved…no other reason that anyone is saved….We all deserve to go to Hell but…God took pleasure in saving men and wills it to be so… (((Act of Valor movie – a scene where a man with a pregnant wife back home is with his SEAL team and all he can think about is taking some time off and being with his wife and family. A grenade is thrown into a room with him and several of his team members…the scene slows down and you can almost see his thoughts as he considers what to do…He wills it to be that his buddies would be saved and his life will be given by jumping on top of the grenade and taking it into his stomach. God willfully seeks us out.

v. 6

- To the praise of = All this for the purpose of bringing praise to God for:
  - The glory of His grace = glorious grace ---- Fantastic and Indescribeable….yes, Amazing Grace !!
  - He has made us Accepted = Not tolerated…Not just so so…but Accepted …O. K. Oll Korrect !
  - In the Beloved = not of the beloved but we are IN the Beloved!!! = In the Be loved one = In Jesus we have acceptance and status.