

EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING

Message #2, Ephesians 1:4-13

September 13, 2020

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in the heavenly realms
with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
Ephesians 1:1-3*

Seven blessings (the list is complete, but not exhaustive, just like spiritual gifts!)

⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. ¹¹In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:4-14

- 1) When we read this passage all together, we see
 1. The purpose and will of God worked out in the Church
 2. The glory of God revealed in the Church
- 2) This is about God's sovereign grace in our salvation
- 3) Prepositions matter: in, through, under and because of Christ
- 4) Note the tension between the purpose for these blessings and the conditionality of these blessings

Doug's exegetical translation

Note: This section is one long sentence pouring from the mind of Paul, so it is very difficult to translate.

- Blessing #1 For he chose [= select for oneself, *ex + logeō* in middle voice] us in him before the foundation of the world to be [emphasis on “we would be,” PAN verb] holy and blameless in his sight [= “before him”]
- Blessing #2 In love [could be placed with Blessing #1] he predestined [= ordained beforehand, *pro + oridzō*] us to be adopted as sons [from a root which means “to place a son,” where we get the word “thesis”] through Jesus Christ to himself, in accordance to the pleasure [this word can mean “purpose” or “kindness”] of his will.
– to the praise [in the Philippians 4:8 sense, each time] of his glory kind of grace, which he has freely given us in the One having been loved [or, “the graciously given to us in the One he loves kind of grace”, the verb come from the root form of “grace” as well!].
[doxology #1]
- Blessing #3 In him we have redemption [= *apolutrōsis*, to purchase someone out of slavery or pay a ransom] through his blood
- Blessing #4 . . . the forgiveness of sins [imagery of losing one's footing, a moral fall] in accordance with the riches [emphasis on the vast wealth] of God's grace that he lavished [better, “causes to increase abundantly”] on us with all wisdom and understanding [“wisdom and understanding” could connect to Blessing #5]
- Blessing #5 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ to be put into effect [better, “into a new administration or economy”] when the times [= *kairos*] have reached their fulfillment – to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head [literally, “to put the head back on” or even “summarize”], even Christ.
- Blessing #6 In him we were also chosen have obtained an inheritance [from *ek + klēroō*, an aorist passive plural verb], having been predestined [back to Blessing #2] according to the plan of him who works out [= *energeō*] everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ will be [active indicative, NOT subjunctive, “will be” not “might be”] for the praise of his glory. [doxology #2]
- Blessing #7 [Note: this is a very difficult verse to translate, but the core teaching is clear]
Believing in him [or, “having believed in him”, though the verb follows “salvation], even you, the ones who heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, yes you were marked in him with a seal [“marked with a seal is one word, the verb *sphragidzō*] the promised Holy Spirit [or, “the Spirit, of the promise one, the holy one”], who is a deposit guaranteeing [or, “given as a pledge for”] our inheritance until [better, “with a view toward”] the redemption of those who are God's possession [or, “until we acquire possession of it”]
– toward the praise [in the Philippians 4:8 sense] of his glory. [doxology #3]

Living into every spiritual blessing

We'll be looking at two blessings on Sunday, several more on Wednesday night. These are the questions that will guide our study:

- 1) What is revealed about God's character as I see how he has worked in and through Jesus?
- 2) What is the 4-Dimensional impact of this blessing?
- 3) What is God's purpose in this blessing? What does God want to accomplish in and through me?

Blessing #1, An incredibly old blessing

*⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.
Ephesians 1:4*

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Blessing #2, "Welcome to the family"

*In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.
Ephesians 1:5-6*

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

My working outline of Ephesians

Overall Theme:

Chapters 1-3 The Glory of God in the Church

Chapter 1 The glory of God in redemption

Chapter 2 The glory of God in reconciliation

Chapter 3 The glory of God in the revelation of the mystery of the church

Chapters 4-6 The Glory and Pleasure of God through the Church

Chapter 4 The glory of God in the unity and growth of the church

Chapter 5 The glory of God in the imitation of Christ by the saints

Chapter 6 The glory of God in victory of Christ

Resources for further studies of Ephesians

This is a wonderful Bible Project introduction on youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=12&v=Y71r-T98E2Q&feature=emb_logo

Bob Deffinbaugh's Ephesian series is at <https://bible.org/series/ephesians-glory-god-church>

Spurgeon's series of messages on Ephesians are at http://www.romans45.org/spurgeon/index/r_eph.htm

Kim Riddlebarger's sermons on Ephesians are at <http://kimriddlebarger.squarespace.com/sermons-on-ephesians/?jsessionid=3799445CA50CA06F2F395D4FBE89D586.v5-web017>

ThirdMill has produced "Paul and the Ephesians" at <https://thirdmill.org/seminary/lesson.asp/vid/19/version/>

Desiring God, John Piper's media ministry, has some wonderful resources at

<https://www.desiringgod.org/scripture/ephesians/1/messages>

Mark Johnston's "Preaching Ephesians" at <https://www.reformation21.org/articles/preaching-ephesians.php>

Doug's favorite commentaries are John R. W. Stott's *The Message of Ephesians* (IVP, 1979), William Hendriksen, *Exposition of Ephesians* (Baker Book House, 1967) and, much shorter, F. F. Bruce's *The Epistle to the Ephesians* (Revell, 1961).

Martyn Lloyd-Jones has a wonderful seven volume series on Ephesians (Baker Books, 1978).

The text we spent the most time on in Darrell Johnson's class was Timothy Gombis' *The Drama of Ephesians* (IVP Academic, 2010)

The Gospel Coalition has some wonderful resources on Ephesians at

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/ephesians/>

Alexander Maclaren's commentary on Ephesians 1 is at

<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mac/ephesians-1.html>

F.F. Bruce's paraphrase is available at https://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/eq/1962-3_163.pdf

	A.D.	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
Death, resurrection of Christ (A.D. 33 [or 30])†		■										
Paul's conversion (33/34*)			●									
Paul's first Jerusalem visit (36/37*)				●								
Paul's second Jerusalem visit (famine relief) (44–47*)					■							
Paul's first missionary journey (46–47)					●							
Paul's third Jerusalem visit (apostolic council) (48–49*)						●						
Paul's second missionary journey (48/49–51*)						■						
Paul's third journey (incl. 3 years in Ephesus) (52–57*)							■					
Paul, under house arrest in Rome, writes to Ephesus (62*)									●			
Paul martyred in Rome (64–67*)									■			