SERMON SERIES:
BOOK OF EPHESIANS

Message: Blessings In Christ

Text: Ephesians 1:1-14

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EPHESIANS

Historical Background of Ephesians:

- Ephesians is a Prison Epistle
- City of Ephesus est. population of 300,000
- 4th greatest city in the 1 century
- Main street & temples were made of marble
- Main arena held 25,000 people
- Temple of Artemis – 1 of 7 wonders of ancient world

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City of Ancient Ephesus

2 Rekonstruktion von Ephesos vom Koressos Berg, E. Falkener, 1858

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Ephesus Threatre – 25,000 capacity

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Temple of Artemis – Acts 18-19

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Ephesus in the book of Acts: (cont.)

- **Paul experienced revival in Ephesus**

  "Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and *began* burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing" (Acts 19:18-20).

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Ephesus in the book of Acts: (cont.)

- **Demetrius testimony of Paul**

  Apostle Paul said ‘gods made with hands are no gods at all” and ‘the temple of Artemis was worthless” (Acts 19:26-27).

- **Ephesus was cursed not blessed by God**

  "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us…” (Galatians 3:13).

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Message: Blessings In Christ **Text: Ephesians 1:1-14**

Ephesians 1:1-3

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

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Message: Blessings In Christ **Ephesians 1:1-14**

1. How are the blessings in Christ explained? (Eph 1:1-3)

1.1 Blessings belong to believers now –
"*who has blessed us*" – v. 3
1.2 Blessings are "*spiritual*"– not temporary but eternal
1.3 Blessings are from "*heavenly places*"
Jesus sits at "*the right hand of God's throne*" (Heb 12:2)
1.4 Blessings are only for those "*in Christ*"

" who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,…" (v.3).

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Message: Blessings In Christ **Ephesians 1:1-14**

Ephesians 1:4-14

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would 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 on 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

EPHESIANS

Message: Blessings In Christ **Ephesians 1:1-14**

Ephesians 1:1-14 (cont.)

10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on 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 would be to the praise of His glory.

EPHESIANS

Message: Blessings In Christ **Ephesians 1:1-14**

Ephesians 1:1-14 (cont.)

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.

EPHESIANS

Message: Blessings In Christ **Ephesians 1:1-14**

2. What are the blessings we have in Christ?

2.1 We are <u>chosen</u> by God - v.4

, **"..He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,..."**

Jesus said, "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit,..." (John 15:16).

EPHESIANS

Message: Blessings In Christ **Ephesians 1:1-14**

2. What are the blessings we have in Christ?

2.1 We are <u>chosen</u> by God – v.4 (cont.)

"There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one" (Romans 3:10-13).

"no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father" (John 6:65).

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Message: Blessings In Christ **Ephesians 1:1-14**

2. What are the blessings we have in Christ?

2.2 We are <u>adopted</u> to God's child – v.5

".. He made known to us the mystery of His will.."

Ephesians 2:3-5

"3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved."

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Message: Blessings In Christ **Ephesians 1:1-14**

2. What are the blessings we have in Christ?

2.3 We are <u>redeemed</u> & <u>forgiven</u> by God – v.5

"… In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,…"

- **redeemed = purchased by Christ's blood**

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Message: Blessings In Christ **Ephesians 1:1-14**

2. What are the blessings we have in Christ?

2.4 We know the mystery of God's will – v.9

"He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him …".

1 Corinthians 1:18

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.""

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Message: Blessings In Christ **Ephesians 1:1-14**

2. What are the blessings we have in Christ?

2.5 We have an eternal <u>inheritance</u> – v.11

"… . In Him [11] also we have obtained an inheritance.."

1 Peter 1:4

"to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,"

EPHESIANS

Message: Blessings In Christ **Ephesians 1:1-14**

2. What are the blessings we have in Christ?

2.6 We are guaranteed salvation by the Spirit– v.13

"… you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance …"

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Message: Blessings In Christ **Ephesians 1:1-14**

3. How does God give His blessings?

3.1 "in love" – vr.4
3.2 "according to the kind intention of His will" – v. 5
3.3 "according to the riches of His grace" – v.7
3.4 "In all wisdom and insight" – v.8
3.5 "according to His purpose" – v. 11
3.6 "to the praise of His glory" –v.12,14

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In view of God's blessings "in Christ"….

- **Are you sure you are "in Christ"? Are you saved?**
- **Are you content knowing your blessed…? (Phil 4:12)**
- **Since you are blessed are you willing to bless others?**
- **Have you blessed Jesus by making Him your "first love" ?**

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Revelation 2:1-5 – church in Ephesus

> **"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:….I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false; 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. 4 But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent…".**

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Congregation Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, I am blessed by You because I'm in Christ. I am chosen by You, I am adopted by You, I am redeemed and forgiven by You, I know the mystery of Your will, I have an eternal inheritance from You, and I am guaranteed salvation by your Spirit. I have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ. May Christ be praised and honoured for all His great blessings. Amen!