

Series: Living Life as the New People of God-A Study in Ephesians
Blessing the New People of God

Ephesians 1:3-14 (NIV)

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. 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 to be adopted as his sons 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. ⁹And he 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 will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even 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 hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having 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.

1. TRYING TO DESCRIBE THE BLESSINGS OF GOD VV. 3-6

- The Character of the Blessing of God.
v. 3 *"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."*
- The Realm Where Blessings Are Experienced.
v. 3 *"...who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."*
- The Terms on Which the Blessings Come.
vv. 4-6
 - We must live in the knowledge of being chosen by God.
 - We must understand how God sees us—holy and blameless.
 - We must accept our new position in the family of God.
 - We must receive God's glorious grace through Christ.

Five Things We Need to Understand About Election

1. Election has its ground in Christ.
2. God's choice was made before the foundation of the world.
3. God's choice was purposeful.
4. Divine election is according to the good pleasure of His will.
5. The ultimate end of His choice is the praise of the glory of His grace.

From Dr. Curtis Vaughn's Founders Study Guide Commentary on Ephesians, 2002

2. PRACTICAL EXAMPLES OF THE BLESSINGS OF GOD vv. 7-14

- Redemption and Forgiveness
v. 7 *"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."*
- Wisdom and Prudence
vv. 8-10 *"... that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. 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 when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ."*
- A Holy Heritage
vv. 11-12 *"In 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, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory."*
- The Gift of the Spirit
vv. 13-14 *"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory."*

God has poured out His blessing on us by making us His chosen ones so that we might receive all that He has in store for us.