

Spiritual Blessings Ephesians 1:1-14

Intro: This is basic to all of the passages in which the word Spiritual is used. Here we are concerned with the wonderful theme of redemption, or our salvation. Keep in mind that this is written to believers who should be seeking to enter constantly more fully into all that God had done for us. Only a casual reading will show that this the emphasis.

I. What God has done (v. 3).

Paul's writing begins with praise: BLESSED. God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing...

And all of these blessings are in Christ. Apart from the Lord Jesus you and would have absolutely nothing; in Him we have every spiritual blessing. Therefore, from the very beginning Paul wants us to be concerned with the Lord Jesus. What a place to have our attention centered.

II. What are these spiritual blessings?

As we look carefully at these verses we find that we can see that the one thing God was concerned about was that He be able to make us His sons -- and then to keep us in that relationship. To do this God had to take into consideration the past, and the present, and the future.

I do not propose to deal exhaustively with this passage, but just to take out what is vital and leave the details for you.

A. The past: "He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world"

In other words God had you and me on His heart before the foundation of the world, before creation. What amazing truth!

And His choice came from His own heart and was of you personally. So we belong to Him because He wanted us. Let your mind dwell on this for a while.

"In love" goes
with v. 3
not 4.

II. B. The present: what do we have now to show for it?

We have redemption, a deliverance procured by the payment of a ransom. God was faced with a cost, and His willingness to pay the price tells us something of the value He saw in the people He wanted to redeem.

What was the cost? Blood. Whose blood? The Lord Jesus' Why? Because of our sins. And because Christ died we are not only delivered, but also forgiven---and our sins are gone.

C. The future: how do we know it will last? See vv. 13 & 14.

Every child of God is sealed by the Holy Spirit in Christ. So the whole Trinity is concerned about our salvation. Cf. also John 10: 27-30.

"Until the redemption (full) of the purchased possession" - that's You!

III. Why did He bless us this way?

- Obviously to make us and keep us ~~like~~ His sons. But what kind of sons does He want us to be?

A. "That we should be holy and without blame before Him"

Holy is separated from common use, dedicated, set apart for God. Just how holy are we?

- Blameless is to be without a stain.

And all of this is to be "before Him". This is more than position; this is condition. Paul doesn't wait to get into practical matters; he begins by being practical. The thought staggers you, doesn't it?

But there is another reason

B. "That we should be to the praise of His glory" (v. 12; cf. v.v. 6, 14).

Who gets the glory of what you are? Are we guilty of running around trying to attract attention to ourselves?

What are we in ourselves? Nothing.

- Where did we get what we have?
From the Lord Jesus.

Who gets the glory then for any good in us? Christ does.

One day you and I will be completely to the praise of His glory, but until that day we need to be headed in that direction. What glorious truth!

Just one more question

- IV. How did we come into all of this? See v. 13.

In whom ye believed after ye heard. It is God "who worketh all things." Ours is simply to trust Him and walk with Him.

Nothing good that we have do we deserve, and none of it did we earn. Our blessings, which extend back before creation & extend forward to our completed redemption are all ours because we are for Christ.

CONCL: Shall we not see just how much these blessings are producing, v. 3? and then praise Him as Paul did in v. 3?