

ALL OF GOD'S BLESSINGS

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 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. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding, 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. 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. 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.

Ephesians 1:1-14 (NIV)

❖ CHOSEN by the Father... From the BEGINNING.

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. (vs. 3)

1. We are APPOINTED by God for salvation... the doctrine of ELECTION.
For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. (vs. 4)
2. We are ADOPTED into God's family... the doctrine of PREDESTINATION.
In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will... (vs. 4b-5)
3. We are ACCEPTED as we are... the doctrine of GRACE.
... to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace... (vs. 6-7)

❖ REDEEMED by the Son... In the PRESENT.

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. (vs. 7-8)

1. When I say "Yes" to Jesus, I HAVE been SAVED (Redeemed).
For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

2. As I am following Jesus, I AM being SAVED (Redeemed).
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.

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV)

3. When I die, I WILL be SAVED (Redeemed)
"... but those who endure to the end will be saved."

Matthew 24:13 (NLT)

❖ SEALED by the Spirit... For ETERNITY.

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... (vs. 13b-14)

1. The Holy Spirit REGENERATES us when we accept Jesus as our Savior.
... He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5 (NIV)

2. The Holy Spirit becomes our REFUGE till we get to Heaven.
Now it is God... who anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV)

3. The Holy Spirit REVEALS to us who we are as Children of God.
Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20a (NIV)

- ❖ Closing Truth: We are CHOSEN by God to be a part of His family... the CHURCH.
And God has put all things under the authority of Christ, and he gave him this authority for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with his presence.

Ephesians 1:22-23 (NLT)