

CHOSEN, BLESSED, AND PRDESTINED TO BE CHILDREN OF GOD
(Eph. 1:3-14) Prayer: Emphasis is on Verses 3, 5-7

Among all the passages of Scripture, this is one of the greatest. It deals with God's plan for the Church, for the believers, for the saints. We are a chosen nation, and a holy people. We are **blameless because of the blood of Christ. We are blessed because of the work accomplished by Jesus Christ. We are also endowed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places although we are sinners by nature.**

Why does God grant us all these *rich spiritual blessings*? What is the purpose God's blessings for the church? What is God's plan for you and me?

All these questions are answered in this passage.

Let us begin with God's blessings which are heavenly to us.

3 times the phrase "*Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places*" is repeated.

It is repeated as **a declaration of an existing fact that God has blessed us with heavenly blessings as opposed to earthy material blessings**

Throughout history God used two methods of blessing people:

1. Before Christ, God blessed people with material blessings: land (e.g. to Israel), wealth and fame (to Abraham, David and Solomon, etc.). To however, wisdom was not an earthly blessing. Solomon but heavenly.

It is not unusual to hear people say, *I have been blessed*, when they refer to material things they own. God gave man material blessings first to teach him/her the following lessons: That earthly material possessions do not last; they deteriorate.

- That material blessings cannot bring peace and are corruptible.
- That material blessings cause selfishness and greed where we seek to hoard.
- That material blessings cause so much bondage, disruption, and division within the self.

According to 1Pet.1:18, "*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that we were redeemed from the empty ways of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, the lamb the lamb without blemish or defect.*"

2. So, there is a distinction between material blessings and spiritual blessings.

Spiritual blessings are heavenly not earthly. Spiritual blessings are not in form of *land, wealth, silver, gold or fame*. Spiritual blessing are heavenly.

It is the Spirit that controls man and man's circumstances. A person may feel bad, down, depressed or oppressed or a person may feel strong. If the Spirit is strong in a person, that person will arise and conquer the oppressive circumstances to live yet another day of victory. But, if the Spirit is weak, whether at work or at play, that person wallows in self-pity, grumbling and complaining, living another day of defeat. For such a person,

days stretch longer into weeks, weeks into months into complete defeat because the spirit in him is too weak to conquer the dire circumstance.

Here is what spiritual blessings do. They enable a person to control his life. These blessings are given to us saints in order for us to accomplish **God's purpose of redemption** thru the **blood of Christ**. **The blood of Christ cleanses all sin and brings forgiveness**. Consequently, we **are sealed with the Spirit and granted wisdom and understanding**. **In the end we obtain heavenly inheritance**.

Since God is the source of all blessings, and he gives them out for his purpose, we're grateful and thankful and therefore acknowledging God as our God.

But why has so God blessed us with heavenly riches?

Philippians 3:20, gives the following reason: "*For our citizenship is in heaven,*" that's **why**. Since Christ is heaven where we are citizens, we have access to those blessings. In fact, the words "*in Christ*" or "*in Him*" appear at least 6 times in these verses, showing how Christ connects us to these blessings. It says,

- Verse 3: *God blessed us in Christ*; verse 4: *God chose us in Him before the foundation of the world*; verse 7: *In Him we have redemption through his blood*.
- verse 9: *God lavished upon us all wisdom and insight according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ*; verse 11: *In Him we have an inheritance* and verse 13: *In Him we were sealed with the Holy Spirit*.

So it is through Christ and because of Christ that we have access to rich heavenly spiritual blessings in form of **redemption, forgiveness, adoption**, and predestination. Nothing can stop God's purpose for a believer because the believer set in place. We may struggle, suffer and stumble, but God's purpose remains eternal. The believer's eternal destiny as an adopted child of God is already set.

But why does God do all this? Why did God bless us with these spiritual blessings?

- **For the praise of his glory;**

What is the purpose of the church?

- **To bring praise to the glory of God.**

What is the meaning of life?

- **To bring praise to the glory of God.**

What is God's plan for you and me for all time?

- **That we should bring praise to His glory.**

And that is the message of the entire Bible. When we read this passage, we are humbled because we don't deserve these rich spiritual blessings. We don't deserve forgiveness of my sins, redemption, or adoption as God's children. Instead, we do deserve punishment. But through Christ's blood, and his forgiveness of our sins, we have been adopted as children, not because of our deserving but because of the riches of God's grace lavished upon us. In response to such undeserved kindness we must glorify to God's name in all we think, in all we do, and in all that we are. Glory be to God! Amen.