

Sunday Service Sermons

10 October 2021

Blessings for Believers

Text: "Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ". *Eph. 1:3*

Full text: *Ephesians 1:1-14*.

Essence of the full text: God chose us in the beginning of time to be his special people.

Through Christ we are God's holy and blameless ones.

God's love and grace has done this.

By way of the blood of Christ, which has forgiven us all our sins.

Through Christ God has also given us all wisdom and understanding.

The purpose is to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, Jesus the Christ.

In Christ we were chosen, to complete the will of God, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

We were included in Christ when we heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation.

Having believed, we 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.

So, since you responded to the call of the Holy Spirit and became a follower of Christ, you belong to God to be used for his glory.

Therefore you are a holy and set aside people.

Belonging to God through Christ to be used for his glory and honor.

That is the text now let's talk about what it said.

Do you like gifts?

Remember in grade school when you returned after the Christmas holiday and wanted to tell others about your Christmas gifts?

You and your classmates shared the gifts that each of you received for Christmas.

Paul does this in the beginning of his letter to the Ephesian Christians as he describes the many gifts, or blessings, believers have received from the Lord.

The greatest of God's many blessings are in the spiritual realm.

We are going to take a look at some of those gifts this morning.

God selects believers.

God grants to believers the gracious privilege of being selected for membership in his family.

The act of being chosen to be a believer rests with God's initiative rather than a person's pursuit of God.

Notice the various words that describe God's gift of selection like chosen, predestined and his will.

God's selection marks the point of beginning for believers.

The blessing of God's selection begins with God.

"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world." *Eph. 1:4*

This means that our selection is not determined by our virtues or goodness.

God begins the salvation process by choosing believers.

God's selection does not rule out personal choice.

Someone has described the process like this: God wants you and Satan wants you so you break

the tie.

God's selection underscores his purpose.

Look at God's purpose for selection: Chosen that we should be holy and without blame before him in love and predestined in order to be adopted as his children.

The purpose of God's selection is not to demonstrate favoritism but to demonstrate his purpose.

Think about this great gift.

God has picked you to be his family.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God redeems believers.

After God selects believers he begins a wonderful process of transformation.

Paul described this process with the word redemption, in whom we have redemption.

God's redemption means a rescue from bondage.

The Greek word for redemption means liberation or emancipation, as of the setting free of a slave by his master.

The term redemption emerged from the Old Testament idea of God's deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage.

Thus God blesses believers by deliverance.

Jesus Christ delivers people from the evil world.

He rescues us from the bondage of sin.

God's redemption also means the giving of new life.

When God delivered the Jews from Egyptian bondage, he gave them new territory.

Jesus Christ delivers us from a self-centered life to new territory, the selfless life in Christ.

God forgives believers.

Closely akin to God's gift of redemption is the gift of forgiveness.

God gives the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

God's forgiveness means the dismissal of a debt.

The Greek word for forgiveness has the idea of being in debt to a person.

Everyone is in great debt to God for graciously sending his Son to release sinners from their sin debt by his death on the cross.

God's forgiveness also means the restoration of a relationship.

The word translated forgiveness refers to a broken and restored relationship with God.

Individuals are alienated from God, but he restores the relationship by his grace.

God gives His Holy Spirit.

Perhaps the greatest blessing anyone could give to a person is the gift of self.

God has done just that.

He has given himself to us in the person of his Holy Spirit.

God proves his presence in believers.

You were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

By the sealing of the Holy Spirit, God assures believers that he is with them.

God promises greater blessings.

The Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession; to the praise of his glory.

A deposit is a partial payment that guarantees more is to come.

God gives His Holy Spirit, and he is the guarantee of many other subsequent blessings.

No one could enumerate all of God's blessings, but let us remember to count ours frequently and to give thanks to God for his many blessings unto us as members of His family.

For God is the giver of great gifts.

Life itself is a great gift.

Creation is a great gift.

Jesus is God's greatest gift.

And he wants us to be thankful for his gracious gifts.

Then, in response to his great gifts, as is our reasonable response, he wants us to give our existence to him that he might make it worth the living.

Praise God from whom all!

Will you give God your all?