

D. God the Father put the Holy Spirit in our heart when we trusted in Jesus. The Holy Spirit begins to change us now and is the guarantee that God will bless us in the future.

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

5. Conclusion

- The gift of God's Son makes us the most blessed beings in the universe.
- This Christmas season, God calls us to respond with heart-felt worship and praise of his glorious grace.

Life Group Questions

1. Have you ever thought of yourself as the most blessed being in the universe through Christ? How does that thought change the way you look at yourself in the mirror?
2. Paul says we were predestined. That means God chose us and called us to himself before we were born or had done anything right or wrong. Sometimes the doctrine of predestination is considered devise but the Bible intends it to be a comfort. Why is the doctrine of predestination comforting? (See Ephesians 1:4-6; 11-12; Genesis 50:20; Acts 4:27-28.)
3. The death of Jesus for our sin is so significant that it is more than sufficient to pay for all of our sin and to bring us back into a relationship with God, no matter what we have done. How does that kind of forgiveness make you feel when you look at the sin in your life? Do you feel it is unfair for God to forgive a murder that turns to him? How does the death of Jesus connect forgiveness with justice? (See Ephesians 1:6-8; Acts 2:38; Colossians 2:13.)
4. How does knowing that God has a specific plan for world history and that all things will eventually come under Jesus change the way we face problems today? Why is it important to know God chose to have us reign and rule with Jesus? (See Ephesians 1:9-10; Philippians 2:9-10; Colossians 1:16, 20; Revelation 21:1-6.)
5. How has the Holy Spirit changed you since He came into your life? How has your thinking changed? How has your sexuality and marriage changed? How has your love for the church and the Bible changed? In what other ways will the Holy Spirit continue changing us in eternity? (See Ephesians 1:11-14; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 15:42-49.)



Ephesians 1:3-14 – I Am Blessed.

December 2, 2018

1. Through Christ, I am the most blessed being in the universe.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places Ephesians 1:3 (ESV)

Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! 1 Corinthians 6:3 (ESV)

...by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. Colossians 2:14-15

2. God the Father chose to bless me in eternity past.

...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. Ephesians 1:4-6 (ESV)

...he chose us in him before the foundation of the world,...

A. God chose us to make us holy and blameless.

...that we should be holy and blameless before him.

B. God chose us because of his love, not because we deserve it.

In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ.

C. We are a grand demonstration of God's undeserved grace.

To the praise of his glorious grace,...

3. God the Son is the source of my present blessing.

...with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight. Ephesians 1:6–8 (ESV)

A. Jesus frees us from the power of sin.

...he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood.

B. Jesus frees us from the consequences of our sin.

...the forgiveness of our trespasses,...

C. Jesus gives us superabundant grace no matter what our sin.

... according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us,...

Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, Romans 5:20 (ESV)

D. God the Father extends the grace of Jesus at the right time and the right way.

...in all wisdom and insight.

4. God promises to continue blessing me in the future.

... making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:9–14 (ESV)

A. History will culminate with all things under the reign and rule of Jesus.

...making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. Colossians 1:16 (ESV)

B. We are God's chosen inheritance for eternity.

We have obtained an inheritance... (literally "We are God's inheritance.")

But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day. Deuteronomy 4:20 (ESV)

C. God is in charge of world history and our history. He will work everything in life for his praise and glory.

...having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.