

Blessings in Him
Eph 1:3-14
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to remind us where the best blessings can be found, in Christ.

- Intro: 1. Blessing can be defined as benefit.
2. So the question must be asked, where can the best benefits be found?

I. Redemption & Forgiveness

- A. In Him we have redemption (**Eph 1:7a**)
1. Redemption defined: *“liberation procured by the payment of a ransom”*
 2. How many places for redemption are found here? One, “In Him”.
- B. In Him we have the forgiveness of sin (**Eph 1:7b-8**)
1. **Forgiveness defined:**
 - i. **release from bondage or imprisonment**
 - ii. **forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty**
 2. It is by God’s grace that mankind finds both redemption & forgiveness
 3. Both are made known by wisdom & prudence (understanding) of Him

II. The Mystery of His Will & Our Inheritance

- A. In Him the mystery of His Will is made known (**Eph 1:9-10**)
1. God has made His will known to man, His will being the gospel, some call the “will of Grace”.
 2. His will being that in the “fullness of times” he gathered together all things in Christ (v.10a).
 - i. This time began as prophesied by Daniel(Dan 2:44), Acts 2
- B. In Him we obtain inheritance (**Eph 1:11-12**)
1. This inheritance is salvation, through Christ.
 2. God decided long ago that the obedient would gain salvation, while the disobedient would not.
 - i. Those who still trust in Christ will “be praise of His glory” (v.12)
 - a. These who “first trusted” are still trusting.

III. Lessons for Us Today

- A. True blessings come from God (**Eph 1:3**)
1. We find that the spiritual blessings of verse 3 are made clear in the following verses.
 2. All these incredible blessings can only be found in Christ (v.3)
- B. Reward for obedience was predetermined by God (**Eph 1:4-5,6**)
1. God has determined that those who are His will be holy and without blame before Him. (v.4)
 2. It gives God pleasure to have decided in advance that those who love Him will be adopted by Him as sons and daughters (v.5).
 3. (v.6) – We are to find favor in God, which brings Him praise. Because we find favor in Him we are accepted by Him.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Paul makes it clear to those at Ephesus that the most important blessings of all, spiritual blessings, are in Christ.
2. How do we obtain these blessings?
3. The same way they did in the time of the Apostles, by obedience to the gospel.
4. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9