

## Every Spiritual Blessing II

Ephesians 1:3-6

6/2/02

### Intro

- Prayer and soup dinner fellowship.
- .....

The Apostle Paul is writing an open letter to the church in Ephesus and begins his letter with one of the most promise-filled verses in the Bible. "He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ," He says.

We now look at these spiritual blessings and in so doing we gain insight for ourselves. These are spiritual blessings for us as well as for the church there in Ephesus.

Here Paul begins the list of spiritual blessings by giving us the blessings of the Father.

***Intro.*** Notice that every spiritual blessing is ours **IN Christ.**

### **A. The Father gave us the Son, and all these spiritual blessings are IN Jesus.**

- Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no man goes to the Father except by me."
- Jesus is peace.

### **B. The key to spiritual blessings, then, is not just learning ABOUT Him, but being IN Him.**

- This is one of the greatest truth known!!!!

## **I. God chose us in Him.**

Vs 4 **A. This is listed as the first, and therefore one of the greatest spiritual blessings of all.**

- Yet this subject, ***election***, has become one of the greatest points of conflict in the church.
- For some people, it's the most important theological axe there is to grind. Great debates have raged over this point and churches have split because of the dispute.

***Illus – I knew a guy who would choose his friends based on their view of election, and for Christmas and birthday gifts, he would give people books on this subject.***

- But let's not forget that it is a great blessing to the church to know that we have been chosen in Him.

**B. What is the crux of the debate? Whether God chooses us or whether we choose Him.**

- Yet the scripture indicates that both are true.

**We choose Him** – the scripture says, "***Choose you this day whom you will serve.***"

- ***And in another place, "Whosoever will, let him come..."***

**God chooses us** – ***Does not God also have the right to choose?***

- ***But He chose us before the foundation of the world.***

C. We chose Him because He first chose us. In the same way the scripture says, “We love Him because He first loved us.”

## II. He chose us – that we should be holy and blameless.

Vs 4

A. Notice Paul doesn't say, “**Because** we are holy and blameless.”

➤ It is a result, not a cause.

B. What is holiness and righteousness?

- Holiness is the heart and character of God.
- Righteousness is the doing of holiness
- God is holy and therefore He is righteous. With us, it is the opposite.
  - He gave us His righteousness and therefore we become holy in Him.

C. How did we receive His righteousness?

➤ By being IN Christ Jesus.

## III. He predestined us to adoption as sons.

A. Notice it says that He predestined us to adoption.

- There is no scripture that says that God ever predestines anyone to go to hell.
- ***There will be no one in hell who will be able to say, “I wanted to go to heaven, but You put me in the wrong list.”***

***Illus – It's as though God were saying, “If you really want to go to hell, I will let you freely choose this... but over my dead body.”***

- Rev 3:5, “He who overcomes, I will not erase his name from the book of life.”
- Romans 8:28 ff

B. Based on His foreknowledge, then, why does God allow those to be born who will reject Him?

➤ Because it has to be played out.

***Illus – We could imagine a scene where someone might say, “I would so have chosen You!” Would not, would so, would not, would so...”***

C. Adoption is an amazing truth.

➤ This is not just a metaphor, we are actually, in truth adopted as a son or daughter.

D. On what basis are we predestined, adopted, and chosen?

- On the basis of foreknowledge?
- According to the kind intention of His will!!
- To the praise of the glory of His grace!!

***Illus – If we were asked to coach the dream team, no one would be amazed at my coaching skills, but what if I coached the average Joe and competed on the same level... and won?***

Conclusion

**May we have a great hunger to know more about God's spiritual blessings!!**