

3 – DIVINE BLESSINGS (EPHESIANS 1:3-14)

I. Praise for the God's Blessings (Ephesians 1:3)

- The apostle Paul expresses a blessing for God who is the Father of Jesus Christ.
- The basis for this praise is because God had blessed believers with every spiritual blessing.

II. The Nature of the Blessings (Ephesians 1:4-14)

A. The Blessings of the Father (Ephesians 1:4-6)

1. Choose Us to Be Holy (Ephesians 1:4)

a. The Choice

- God chose believers to be in Jesus Christ.

b. The Timing

- The Lord made this choice before the foundation of the world.

c. The Reason

- He chose believers so that they should be holy and without blame before him.
- To be holy means consecrated or devoted to God.

2. Predestined Us to Be Adopted (Ephesians 1:5-6a)

- God has marked believers out (predestined) to be his adopted children.
- This was done for believers in accordance with God's purpose and will for us.
- This was also done for the praise of the glory of his grace to believers.

3. Made Us Accepted (Ephesians 1:6b)

- Through his grace, believers have been made acceptable in Christ.

B. The Blessings of the Son (Ephesians 1:7-12)

1. Redemption (Ephesians 1:7)

- In Christ, believers have the blessing of being redeemed by his blood sacrifice.
- Redemption conveys the ideal of freedom that resulted from a payment of a costly price.

Foundation For The Christian Life: The Letter To The Ephesians

2. Forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7)

- In Christ, believers have the forgiveness of sins.

3. Grace (Ephesians 1:7-8)

- The basis of redemption and forgiveness is the richness of God's grace.
- Christ made that grace abound toward us with all wisdom and understanding.

4. The Mystery of His Will (Ephesians 1:9-10)

- Christ also made known to believers the mystery of his will.
- Christ made known his plan to bring both Jew and Gentile in fellowship with him.

5. Predestined to Praise (Ephesians 1:11-12)

- Christ has chosen or appointed believers to an inheritance.
- This was predestined in accordance with Christ's purpose to fulfill his will.

C. The Blessings of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14)

1. Our Salvation (Ephesians 1:13)

- Paul points out that we trusted in Christ when we heard the gospel, the word of truth.

2. Our Sealing (Ephesians 1:13)

- Once we believed, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

SCRIPTURE Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

- The word "seal" means form of identification to authenticate.
- It is a once for all act that gives believers continued assurance that they are God's children.

3. Our Guarantee (Ephesians 1:14)

- The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of a believer's inheritance in Christ.
- This guarantee is in place until all believers experience the fullness of salvation.