

Ordained by the Father

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, November 8, 2020; Tyler Clark

Sermon Theme: The character of God and the glorious blessings of the Father are displayed in His plan of salvation, as He not only lovingly predestines His saints for adoption, but sovereignly chooses them for holiness that befits their sonship and daughtership, all to the praise of His glorious grace in Christ Jesus.

I. BLESSINGS FROM THE TRINITY – Read Ephesians 1:3-14

- A. All three members of the Trinity are actively involved in the work of salvation. Specifically, how is each member involved? How do each of the sections highlighting the members of the Trinity conclude (vv. 6, 12, 14)? Why is this significant in light of Isaiah 42:8 and Psalm 115:1?
- B. Ephesians begins with the fellowship and unity of the Trinity before it moves to exhortations for fellowship and unity within the Church. Why is this significant? What connections can you see between the relationships in the Trinity and the relationships that should exist in the church?
- C. What are the “spiritual blessings” that Paul highlights in verses 4-14? Do you believe that, at this very moment, you have “EVERY spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” if you are in Christ Jesus? What are some practical ways you can keep this present reality forefront in your mind?

II. GLORIOUS GRACE FROM THE FATHER – Read Ephesians 1:3-6

- A. What do the Father’s actions in verses 3-6 tell you about His character? How would you like to grow in “blessing” the Father for who He is and what He’s done for you in Christ Jesus?
- B. Why did the Father choose people before the foundation of the world? As you feel the weight of His calling on your life to be holy, how does verse 4 comfort your soul and give you confidence?
- C. Read Deuteronomy 7:6-8. What similarities do you see between the actions of God in the O.T. and Ephesians 1:3-6? What do these passages tell you about the love of God? Do you believe you can make yourself any more loved by God than how He already loves you in Christ Jesus?
- D. Specifically, how does Ephesians tell us that God the Father treats His adopted sons and daughters (Ephesians 1:11, 18-20; 2:6)? What connections do you make between Christ and true believers?

III. BLESSINGS FOR BELIEVERS – Application

- A. Though God has made known to us His grace in salvation, we are limited in understanding exactly how that works. In what ways does a passage like this require humility and awe?
- B. What is the importance of the “we” and “us” language in Ephesians 1:3-6? How would you like to grow in becoming more like your Father – specifically in the manner in which you treat your fellow adopted brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:22-24; 4:32-5:2)?