

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Ephesians 1:3-14 – The Wealth of Christmas Blessing

❖ Day 1

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us
with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places
in Christ,
- 4 just as He chose us
in Him
before the foundation of the world,
that we would be holy and blameless before Him.
In love
- 5 He predestined us
to adoption
as sons
through Jesus Christ
to Himself,
according to the kind intention of His will,
- 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace,
which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
- 7 In Him
we have redemption
through His blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of His grace
which He lavished on us.
- 8 In all wisdom and insight
- 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will,
according to His kind intention
which He purposed
in Him
- 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times,
that is, the summing up of all things in Christ,
things in the heavens and things on the earth.
In Him
- 11 also we have obtained an inheritance,
having been predestined
according to His purpose
who works all things
after the counsel of His will,
- 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be
to the praise of His glory.

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- 13 **In Him,**
you also,
 after listening to the message of truth,
 the gospel of your salvation —
 having also believed,
you were sealed
 in Him
 with the Holy Spirit of promise,
14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance,
 with a view to the redemption of God's own possession,
 to the praise of His glory.

1. Read Ephesians 1:3-14 and examine the diagram above. What general observations can you make about the big picture structure of the passage? What else do you notice about the passage as a whole from the structure?

2. What is the main idea in v. 3? How does this flavor the rest of the passage?

3. How do God's blessings come to us according to v. 3? Where else do you see the phrase "in Him" or "in Christ" or "through Christ"? What does that tell us about the blessings of salvation?

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4. What “spiritual blessings” does Paul enumerate for us in this whole passage? (Notice the main verbs that are underlined in the diagram above.)
5. What are the two blessings described in v. 4 and v. 5?
6. How, when, and why does God choose people according to v. 4?

❖ Day 2

Read Eph 1:3-14 again.

7. To what does God predestine people to according to v. 5? What is the standard by which he predestines people according to v. 5?
8. What is the end goal of predestination according to v. 6?
9. What is the spiritual blessing of focus in vv. 7-8?

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10. What does redemption mean? What is forgiveness? What is the measure by which these are given to God's people?

11. What is the spiritual blessing mentioned in v. 9? How does this initially compare with the other spiritual blessings?

12. "administration" in v. 10 is used 8 other times in the NT. Look these other usages up: Luke 16:2-4, 1 Cor 9:17, Eph 3:2, 9, Col 1:25, and 1 Tim 1:4. "summing up" is only used one other time in the NT – Rom 13:9 – look this up. How do these other passages fill in your understanding of what v. 10 is talking about?

❖ Day 3

Read Eph 1:3-14 again.

13. What spiritual blessing is described in v. 11? How was this obtained according to v. 11?

14. What is predestination "according to" in v. 11? What is the end goal of predestination according to v. 12?

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15. What is the final spiritual blessing described in v. 13? How does this blessing come about according to this verse?

16. What is the end goal of this final blessing?

17. What is Paul's overarching purpose in these verses? What from the text itself leads you to that conclusion?

18. What should your response to this passage be? How should your beliefs be changed? How should your worship be informed? How should your attitude and actions change?

19. How does this passage relate to the celebration of Christmas?

20. How might this passage shape your conversations with your family this holiday season?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would dwell on the blessedness of God for the spiritual blessings we have in Christ.