

Blessings in Christ (Part 2)
Ephesians 1:7-14 (CSB)

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the right time—to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.

¹¹ In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, ¹² so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory.

¹³ In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. ¹⁴ The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

I. CHRISTIANS ARE PREDESTINED BY GOD (1:5-6a)

A. Predestined = Proorizo -

1. foreordain, predetermine, mark out beforehand, (6x)
2. Acts 4:28, Romans 8:29-30
3. Who was it that God “predetermined” beforehand?
4. Election is related to Predestination and Trust in Christ (v4,5, 11-13)
 - a. ...having predestined us - to mark out, set the boundary,
 - b. Predestined refers to believers, glorifying ultimately the Lord
 - c. It is Predestination if you choose to trust Christ, you will arrive in glorification and one day you will be glorified
 - d. Context: v.13 in him you also trusted, having believed (aorist tense, active by own volition) heard the gospel of your salvation
5. Election is by God’s grace, not human works, which is then consistent with human Faith (Rom 11:6, 4:4-5)

B. The Subjects of God’s predestination -

1. “Us” (v. 4a), current believers,
2. What was it that God “predetermined”?

C. The Purpose of God’s predestination

1. “Adoption as sons” (v.5a)
 - a. Adoption was a widespread legal procedure throughout Greco-Roman
 - b. Gk word denotes the process or status of being adopted as a son.
 - c. Unlike modern adoption of kids, the Roman elite adopted grown adult men, who would become equal to a natural child in the eyes of the law and society.
 - d. Paul uses this term to show that all believers/Christians attain the status of sons and daughters of God, even if they were slaves like in ancient Rome, because of the finished work of Christ.
2. Whose destination is set beforehand (i.e. predestined)?
 - a. Those unconditionally chosen before creation for reasons beyond their control? Or,

- b. Those who place their faith/trust in the Lovely Lord Jesus Christ, in the Gospel of grace in the good news?

D. The Basis of God's predestination

1. "According to the good pleasure of his will" (v.5b)
 - a. God was pleased and wanted to do that
 - b. By His divine will he has made it possible in Christ

Predestination is not about God picking and choosing who will and who will not be saved before they are even born.

II. CHRISTIANS POSSESS AN INHERITANCE (v.11)

- A. God's own possession, He has chosen believers for himself
- B. The church is God's chosen portion or possession (Israel, Deut. 32:8-9)
- C. Inheritance is eternal, not subject to decay, in preservation kept for us (1 Pet. 1:4, Col 1:12))
- D. How does a Christian receive this inheritance?

III. CHRISTIANS ARE SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (v. 13)

- A. Seal denotes ownership and security
- B. Down payment, to serve as a guarantee or pledge, pointing to future redemption
- C. Holy Spirit of God is the down payment of the blessings promised by God
- D. 2 Cor 1:22, 5:5, Joel 2:28-29, Jn. 14:15-26, 16:5-16
- E. Have you heard the word of truth today?
- F. What is the gospel that you have believed in?
- G. When were you sealed with the Holy Spirit of God?

Now What?

- Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms is for every Christian.
- Riches in Christ include being chosen in Him, predestined in Him, adopted in Him, accepted in Him, possession of inheritance, sealed by the Spirit.
- Rejoice in your standing before the Living God.
- When you are in doubt, remember what He has already granted you.
- If you are not sure of your standing before God today and would like to receive all the spiritual blessings in Christ, believe unto Him and be forever secured.

For "Whoever will call upon the name of the LORD will be saved" (Romans 10:13)

Additional Notes for September 25 - Pastor Oleg

- In what sense have you been 'redeemed' from slavery? (v. 7)
- What do you think your life up to now would have been like if you had not been redeemed?
- What would your future be like without redemption?
- What is the significance that all things will be brought under one head - Christ himself?
- How does this relate to the Creator God and to unity? (1 Cor. 15:24-28)
- According to v. 11-12, what is God's purpose for our lives?
- What do we need to do to fulfill this purpose and how does it relate to Matthew 5:13-16?
- According to v. 13-14, two analogies are 'seal' and 'down payment' with the balance to be paid in a lump sum at the end of the term. When does the 'end of the term' occur?
- How do these analogies help explain how the Holy Spirit functions in our lives?

Scripture References:

I. Predestination

- a. God grants men choice to repent or God decides whether or not men will repent? 2 Tim 2:24-26, Ac 11:18, 20:21, Jn 20:31, Ac 13:48
- b. Must God's granting be effectual in order for God to be most glorified?
Mk 6:6, Lk 19:41, Mk 16:14
- c. What specifically is God doing to 'grant' repentance?
Rom 10:14, Jn 8:31-32, Ac 28:23-28, 2 Tim 3:15, Lk 15:11-32

II. God's Love and Provision for All People

- a. People's Sin
Gen. 3:15-24, Is. 59:2, Rom 5:12, 6:23, Heb 9:22
- b. Responsible to God's appeals for reconciliation
Deut. 30:11-19, Matt 23:37, Lk 8:12, Rom 2:4, Heb 3:7-8
- c. Salvation offered impartially to all, by faith, for whosoever may come to Him
Is 55:1-7, Jn 3:16, Rom 10:12, 1 Tim 2:3-4, 2 Pet 3:9
- d. Atonement of sufficient value for the sins of the whole world and provides a way for anyone to be saved
Is 53:1-12, Jn 12:32-33, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Tim 2:5-6, 1 Jn 2:2
- e. Grace as God's sufficient provision to all, so that all can know the truth and respond in faith
Job 33:12-30, Jn 1:9, Rom 1:16-2:16, 10:18, Tit 2:11
- f. Destruction of those who resist in unbelief to Holy Spirit's drawing to God's mercy
Jn 3:18, 12:48, 2 Thess. 1:6-9, 2:10-12, Heb 10:39
- g. Eternal Security is for all true believers, Christians
Jn 5:24, Rom 8:38-39, 2 Cor 1:20-22, Eph 1:13-14, 1 Pet 3:5