



Reading Ephesians Together Pt 1 Our Spiritual Blessings in Christ!

IN OUR TEXT, THE APOSTLE PAUL GIVES US A LIST OF SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.

- He has chosen or predestinated (elected) in him before the foundation of the world. (v4-5)
- We have been adopted, or placed into the family of God. (v5)
- He has made us accepted in the beloved, an expression indicating our justification. (v6)
- We have been redeemed through the blood of Christ! (v7)
- We have received His love, lavished upon us! (v8)
- He has made known to us the mystery of His will, which is reconciliation through Christ! (v9)
- We have been given a heavenly inheritance in Christ. (v10-11)
- We are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, He Himself being our earnest or guarantee of heavenly inheritance! (v14)

GENERAL APPLICATIONS:

1. **Receive encouragement** concerning the nature of your abundant blessings!
2. **Compare** the cares and pains of this short life to the blessings Christ has given!
3. Allow your **perspective to shift**, for there is joy in that shift! Pain, depression, worry and anxiety, fear and carnal conflict...these are all worldly in the nature for the Christian. Your LORD is far above all principality and power, and has all things under His feet!
4. **Preach Christ and live for Christ.** Given the victory He has wrought for us, is there anything better?
5. **Love one another** because He loved us so.

PERSONAL DEVOTION/FAMILY WORSHIP QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

1. Bishop mentioned the difference between indicatives and imperatives. Have you ever unintentionally put the imperative cart before the horse, attempting to obey God in your own strength? What were the results? Share this testimony with a friend this week, as you encourage them to understand what Christ has done for us!
2. Much was made of the “beauty” of Paul’s words in Ephesians chapter 1. What particular verses struck you as beautiful? Write them out when you have time. Do you see Scripture as beautiful and our Lord’s commands as wonderful? Why or why not?
3. Paul gives an impressive list of our spiritual blessings. How can a good understanding of them change how you view life?
4. One word sums up these spiritual blessings: GRACE. Define God’s grace in your own words. Look at the text again. How might your prayer life, worship, evangelism, and service be impacted by such love?
5. Another way to define our spiritual blessings is the phrase: IN CHRIST. This is a theme in Ephesians. Find that phrase in Ephesians and discuss! Enjoy!

Catechism

Question: What does the ninth commandment require?

Answer: The ninth commandment requires us to tell the truth and to maintain and promote it along with our own and others' reputations, especially when testifying.