

BLESSINGS (IN CHRIST)

Ephesians 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in
Christ Jesus:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms...

(continued...)

...with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will -- to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of...

(continued...)

...God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment -- to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

(continued...)

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

(continued...)

When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession -- to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:1-14

“Blessed be God, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing”

Ephesians 1:3 (literally)

"A blessing is a visible, perceptible, effective proximity of God."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

To be blessed means to have every joy and every benefit that our heart and soul needs and longs for.

Two Origin Stories of Blessing:

Old Testament

Creation (Genesis 1 & 2)

New Testament

Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3:17)

Anthropologists tell us that there are three components to a blessing: To bless someone is to see and like that person, speak well of him or her, and give away some of your life so that he or she might have more life.

Blessings in Christ (1:3-14):

God chose us, predestined us, lavished his grace on us, through his blood (life) redeemed us, forgave us, made known to us his plan for the cosmos, sealed us with the Holy Spirit, gave us a new identity and is working everything out in our lives towards us living into that new identity.

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"IN CHRIST"

v3- blessed with every spiritual blessing "in Christ"

v4- he chose us "in him"

v6- glorious grace, which he has freely given us "in the One he loves"

v7- "in him" we have redemption through his blood

v9- made know to us the mystery of his will...which he purposed "in Christ"

v11- "In him" we were also chosen

v12- put our hope "in Christ"

v13- you were included "in Christ" when you heard the gospel

v14- when you believed you were marked "in him" with the Holy Spirit

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him
in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus

Ephesians 2:6

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Doxology