

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

Eph. 1:1-14

3 yrs at Ephesus - wrote circular letter. copy Laodicea, to adburn De ch -
 (Living in Christ) Not live this as unknowing, so materialistic if I say "Are you in Business?" know
 Living with Saints, love to be with God's Church!
 Living in (Ephesus) - flouride of iniquity!
 We spoke last week about Verse 1. The matter of saints -- who is a saint.

Ephesians, by many people, is said to be one of Paul's greatest writings. He calls himself a prisoner of Jesus Christ. A prisoner of the Lord, V. 1 - Chapter 4. And an ambassador and bonds - Chapter 6:20. But Paul intended this for the believers. And he writes a very special message to these readers who are saints. That was the thing that we discussed - what is a saint, what makes a saint. We could list the names by which God's people are called -- believers, disciples, followers of the way, brethren, Christians, saints.

V 2 Following his greeting in V. 2 - in the form of a prayer, in which he wishes for them grace and peace. Paul expresses his thanksgiving to them. And he offers praise and adoration unto these people.

I want us to take out our checkbook of faith and look through it - V. 3-14. And see what he sets forth, as a believer's blessings in Christ. If you took your pencil and named the blessings, it would be tremendous as to what you would find here. We have been blessed - Paul said, with spiritual blessings.

V 3 V. 3 - He uses the word "spiritual" to define the nature of our blessings. The main thing seems to be spiritual as opposed to natural, material, temporal. Here is Paul, childless, landless, homeless - he knew little of the blessings of the latter things. But he must have had aboundless wealth. Every kind of spiritual blessing that he amply abounded in. Every possible spiritual benefit

in Christ.

So we might say, that he begins by talking about spiritual blessings.
 There is a question -- in whom he blessed us. In Christ! In what he blessed us -- spiritual blessings.

He blessed us where - in Heaven. He blessed us when - before the world was. In whom - in Christ. He blessed us in what - all spiritual blessings.
*Element of Alexandria:
 "He has turned all our sunsets into sunrise"*

How did God bless us - and in what did he bless us. This is an unusual expression in the book of Ephesians -- in Heavenly places. In no where else in the New Testament is this phrase so used. It means the risen Christ has been exalted and enthroned. *Little Girl - with Father "Daddy took me to a Plus sign on the Watts" - The cross is a plus sign.*

I want us to look at (some) of these (blessings) -- there is the blessing of election, V. 4. Of predestination - V. 5. Of grace - V. 6. Redemption, - V. 7-10. Heritage - V. 11-12. And security - V. 13-14. Now the blessings that I am to receive as a Christian were not bestowed upon me, the sinful, but in Christ the beloved. I will get to them by getting into Christ and being complete in him. There is no way that I can share these blessings without being in Christ.

A man once asked Spurgeon how he knew he was saved. He replied something like this. How do I know that I am saved, I read in the Bible where Jesus said that whosoever believes in him as his Saviour - he will save him. I have believed in him.
HE BELIEVED EVEN I
 I have believed in

Jesus as my Saviour, a gentleman keeps his word. And my Saviour is a gentleman.

Blessing 2 -

I. ELECTION - V. 4

The blessings come to us in accordance with an eternal purpose of God.

In conformity of the fact that he hath chosen us. The Scripture says, before the foundation of the world, and there are two expressions here - have chosen us. That means to select, for ones self. The choice is like Jesus choosing his Apostles. It is like the early church choosing her Deacons. It is like the experience of choosing delegates or the Jerusalem conference.

Why was I not born 100 years ago? Times when as a kid growing up - it felt God had forgotten me. I belonged to a poor family, we had no running water, no central heat in the house, no electricity in the house, no daily news paper, no radio - went to school with Boy Scout Affinity. Women, not understand why God was not good to me - As look back did for me let me grow up in a poor home.

Now what - or how far does this go. Back (before the foundation) of the world. God's sovereign choice of us. How far back did he make this choice - before the foundation of the world. The church is not an after-thought with God. Nor was your salvation, before this world was founded - he fore knew everything.

There are no surprises with God. And you and I were not chosen on the basis of human merit but according to his good pleasure.

This is one of the most precious, comforting secrets that God has given us. It is a family secret. It is not for unconverted people. For the members of the household of faith, for whosoever will, may come. And when he passes through the gates of Heaven, whether the coming of the Lord when he dies, we shall see that we were chosen in him. Before the foundation of the world.

Now the doctrine of election has nothing to do with unconverted people.

God has never elected anyone to be lost. But this message has to do with everyone who will come and take of the water of life freely. Because he has chosen to do so.

Now, another question -- what was God's eternal purpose in choosing us? That we should be Holy and without blame before him in love. We as poor sinners, might be completely cleansed of sin before him.

Now the doctrine of election is sometimes opposed because people misunderstand it. They say that it is forbidding. But the teaching deals a blow to our pride. It is indeed a doctrine that levels and strips away that which is of flesh and causes men to rely solely upon Christ for his final election.

Man has a complete freedom of choice - and whosoever will may come. But the Doctrine in the New Testament says, he has chosen us.

Paul is explaining ("blessed us") That we were picked out - God choosing out Israel from all the nations to be a channel - to bring salvation to other nations. It does not imply that those nations not chosen are rejected. Or refuse salvation. Instead, it says that here is God's plan of salvation.

The word "elect" - I Peter 1:2 - selected but one. As if selected from and by God.

All of this was prior to your conversion. Before it transacted - God put this in the universe. And we are chosen in eternity before the foundation of the creation. The root means that we are separated to God, we are dedicated to God.

The amazing thing in this choice is that it looks back to the foundation.

If it was right for God to save us - why wasn't it right for him to plan to do it. Now there are some people who are eager to go to Heaven. They have no desire for holiness. Yet, without holiness, no man shall see the Lord. Heb. 12:14.

second Blessing

II. PREDESTINATION - V. 5

Now do not forget that the preceding verse had the electing act and the object of it was mainly holiness and blameless on our part. He selected us for himself. Now, in V. 5 - it says he predestined this for us. He made up a boundary - a limit to mark out the boundary. Or the limit of a place or thing when used of a person. Hand of God in History - World in Despair -

*Hitler Dictator - Suicide Bunker Germany
Benito Mussolini - Hung up his two daughters pig Italy
Emperor worshiped - Japan (I am no God, but another Japanese)
Joseph sold to Ishmaelites - God said He shall rule The Nation.*

This means to determine his destiny. It defines before hand. That God has determined from eternity that it should be settled this way - that we might be the adopted children. And this embraces relationship of God with his children. Literally a placing as sons, is the meaning of this.

If one Adopts A Child, He Can Never disinherit The Child - It is his Child forever.

The choice made by the searching light of God's presence marked out before hand - it is like the pattern of a dress. That somebody marks it out. And there is a goal

Better TV Coalition Formed

Conservative Christian activist groups, including the Moral Majority and the National Federation for Decency, have formed a coalition to combat violence and sexually-suggestive television programs and commercials.

Under the banner of Coalition for Better TV, an estimated 100 national and local church groups plan to recruit about one million volunteers nationwide to monitor levels of sex, violence and profanity on TV. The coalition will then publish the survey results in the hope of influencing the companies and ad agencies responsible for the offensive material.

Although billed as a public informa-

tion service, the coalition's survey could turn into a national boycott of companies most heavily involved in objectionable programming, officials said.

Donald Wildmon, United Methodist minister who founded the National Federation for Decency, said Americans are "ready to rebel" over the drastic increase of sexual explicitness, profanity and violence on TV in recent years.

The NFD has compiled lists of companies it calls the "top sponsors of sex," and conversely, the "most constructive program sponsors."

The NFD claims a circulation of some 300,000 church groups for its television survey newsletter.

Falls Creek Clean-up Slated

The first part of April has been declared as clean-up, fix-up week at Falls Creek Conference Center, Harry K. Dodd, manager has announced. "We are asking churches to make special efforts to clean the area around their cabins between April 5 and 18," Dodd, said, "We will have crews available to haul away trash."

Dodd added that he hopes churches will dispose of "all the old water coolers, bunk beds, refrigerators and anything not being used."

He noted that the annual auction sale of surplus materials will be held April 7 and items will be accepted for inclusion in the sale.

Disaster Falls Around Ray Linnen Like Rain

By Norman Jameson

A movie about Ray Linnen's life would be rated "R" because of violence. Yet the retired tax planner is a gentle Sunday school teacher in Wichita, Kan., who only wants to help people.

Disaster falls around Linnen like rain, but an umbrella of "divine protection" has shed at least a dozen encounters with certain death. When he was eight years old, he waited to cross a street to a news paper stand to begin his paper route and a speeding car smashed into the stand, killing three people.

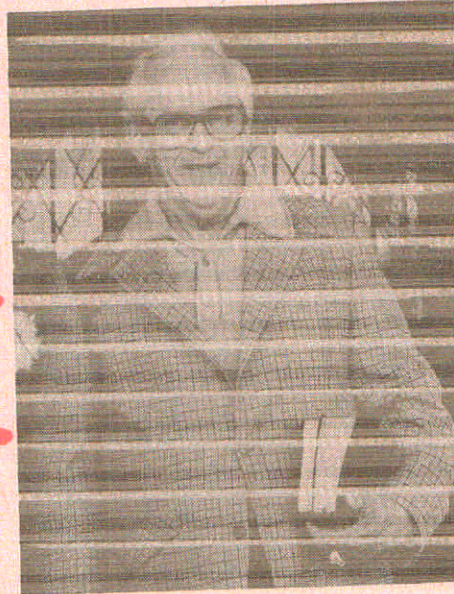
At other times in Linnen's life, an oil rig blew up behind him after he had left to answer a telephone; two airplanes he was scheduled to be on but missed crashed, including one that killed 31 people; and a man who replaced him at a Wichita refinery died in a boiler explosion.

"There's a time and a place for everybody's death," says Linnen, a member of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Wichita. "When it's your time, you'll go. It just hasn't been my time yet."

Linnen bases his philosophy on the theory that "the Lord has something for you to do and he will leave you here until you do it."

Twenty-five years ago when he was heading home from work, he saw a dark cloud in his rear view mirror and decided to skip his usual daily stop at the ice cream parlor in Udall. Five minutes later the deadliest tornado in Kansas history leveled the ice cream parlor, killing seven people inside. Seventy-three others were killed and 200 injured in the small town.

When Linnen and his wife Virginia were honeymooning in Colorado, they crossed a bridge during a ferocious storm and pulled to the roadside. Minutes later, floodwaters swept the bridge away. The Linnens left the steep winding roads of



Ray Linnen

the Rockies a few days later. They were traveling on their first flat road in miles when "darned if my brakes didn't go out," Linnen recalls. Their car rolled safely to a stop.

Most recently, Linnen was supposed to do some tax work at an industrial park near Wichita, but he delayed a half hour to help a widow who lives across the street from him. Back in his house the telephone rang. It was the man he was supposed to see at the industrial park, telling him a tornado had struck the area at the time he was supposed to have been there.

Since Linnen's story became known through an Associated Press release in August, he has appeared on 40 to 45 TV and radio talk shows. He accepts no appearance fee and will only agree to be on the show if he is given the opportunity to talk about his faith.

The exposure has brought him many cries for help. He now has a thick folder of letters and records of telephone calls from people who have sought his council. A lady who was about to commit suicide called and told him after hearing his testimony on the radio she was going to find what the Lord had for her.

"Behind each experience, I've been able to help someone," says Linnen. "Every time I help somebody, I usually get them out of their problem, but then I inherit some more."

Some of Linnen's strange fortunes have not just saved his life, but have improved its condition. Deaf in both ears, Linnen learned of a new operation in 1958 that might restore his hearing. He drove without an appointment to Oklahoma City to see a specialist who was booked four months ahead. On the way, he just made it around a big truck that had jackknifed, blocking the road.

When he got to Oklahoma City there was an opening and he had the exam and successful operation that day. He learned later the person who was to have been in his time slot had been behind him on the road and couldn't make it around the disabled truck.

Later, shortly after he had lost everything he had in a business deal where his partners cheated him, a man walked into his office and gave him the biggest contract he ever had, to manage oil wells that were producing \$850,000 a day. It wasn't until three years later Linnen and the man learned he was supposed to have gone to an oil management office around the corner from Linnen's.

With such a wealth of personal experience from which to draw, Sunday school teacher Linnen, who utilized a real skeleton and used the Bible for a treasure map at youth Halloween parties, says, "No one falls asleep in my class."

set for this. I was born in a Christian home. The Lord's day to us was a day of worship - I loved to hear people sing - precious memories as a child growing up in the heart of the church.

Now Dr. Ironsides said, suppose that God - while planning the church had said, I am going to show by grace that the exceeding riches of my love I shall make fallen sinful men though they may be - into beautiful creatures like the angels are. Every one of these men would accept my son. Will be as beautiful as the angels. Now this would have been wonderful indeed - but God goes farther when he says, I will make redeemed men greater than all the angelic hosts. He says, I have marked out a place - and they shall become the adopted children of Jesus Christ. He has given us a place of sonship. We have become members of God's household and joint heirs with him.

Why has the Father done this? Expressedly it says, for his good pleasure - the pleasure of his will.

Feb 22, 1981 P.M. ✓

On this matter of predestination - a frontier preacher was leaving a home after spending the night with a man in the wilderness. He was checking his gun over to see whether it was in working order. The man said to him, preacher, you believe in predestination - and that you will not go and die until your time comes. And the preacher said, I'm not worried about my time - but it may be the time for one of the wild Indians to go. He was going through the wilderness.

Ivory Soap; 2 Qualities 1 - Floats 2 - Odorless - It's as good as another Brand - Forman's Blundered during Batch of New Soap Cooking in Vat - Norm hour - Over - cooked! Skipped anyway - much lighter & Chomed well. Results, delayed order "Floating Soap" - Chemist revise Old Formula, Ivory became Soap that Floats
Blessings from a Blunder

III. GRACE - V. 6

To the glory of his grace, this is certainly something marvelous in which he talks

Neither can he keep it -7-
about the ultimate end of God's choice to the praise and the glory of his grace. This refers to an outpouring of God's grace - that we are made acceptable to the beloved -- simply by the matter of grace. It is unearned favor that God bears toward men.

Differend Those Walking Golden Streets + Those in Hell! - Divine Grace!

Now in drawing up the blueprint of the church, he elected us, he predestined us to be adopted children that we might by his grace be accepted in the beloved. We were worthless, we were loveless, unrighteous. We cannot possibly be accepted in ourselves. Nor by any other person - but here is one of the key words of blessings. Wherein he has blessed us.

We love one another because we discern the loveable qualities in our Heavenly Father. And this he says is according to the fact that he has accepted us and brought us into his redemption.

Haven't we all been blessed by the grace of God. A preacher had been at a church for a year. A boy came up to him and said, I am glad you came to our church. Before you came - I didn't have any love at all in my life - and since you have been here. I have learned to love both Satan and God.

*Byster - "Grace is never apparent until it is in action"
Match or Flint - fire may be in it But unseen until you see it!*

I do not know whether the grace of God would go that far. But, this is something of our blessing.

Blessing -

IV. REDEMPTION - V. 7-10

Redemption here is the forgiveness of sins or trespasses. And it denotes a

release that is brought about by Christ. It is like the ransom of a slave or a prisoner of war. It is releasing a man under penalty of death for some crime. It is setting free of a man from a situation from which he himself was powerless to liberate himself. In Christ, we have been delivered from the shackles of sin - the enslavement of Satan.

That is why when we get to heaven, we will sing praise to Christ alone. No one of us will brag "look at how far I have come; I have even climbed up here to heaven!"

Note this - that redemption is (through his blood) - Christ's blood. The sacrifice here has in mind the Old Testament victim. In the Old Testament economy in which that word - and yet Christ came and paid God's price.

And what Paul adds here is - the (forgiveness) of sins. That is, sin is a falling away, a trespass and an accumulation of sinful acts. But now this forgiveness means a (sending away). Could there be a greater blessing than to have your sins sent away according to the riches of his grace.

Now that means the measure. The Jews called a cubic and Englishmen call it a foot. But the result is pretty much the same - whether we use dollars, marx, or francs. These various standards by which we measure things. Hence, Paul said, the (unsearchable riches) - in measureable. Unlimited power. Boundless wealth. We need to restore this thing concerning the grace and the redemption of God. To the burning point of God's love. Here is the unrealized wealth. And many people have never claimed. The ransom has been paid.

First, it was like buying a (slave) on the market. The Lord bought us from sin. It was like buying out of a slave market to buy off - to buy off one's self - never

to be put up for sale again. Again, it was to liberate one by ransom - to set him free. Redemption is said to be through his blood. His blood on the cross.

This redemption sent sin away - it released sin. It was compared to the goat that was offered on the day of atonement. The goat was led away symbolically, with the sins of the people placed on his head, into the wilderness.

How the cross saves us is inaccessible to human understanding - one can not enter into it. Beyond our comprehension.

All we can do is just see the results of it. The death of Christ does for us - see effects in human life.

Do you see in this way how God blessed us.

Geo. Whitefield - Preach at Exeter in southwest England - a Russian came pockets filled with Rocks. Going Break up meeting. Don't want those Praying wait till finished. Don't want throw Bible reading wait. Text launch message Grace + redemption in Christ! He never threw the rocks - told Preach, my pockets full of Rocks to Break up meeting. Had to Break up my Heart! man glowingly bowed on the spot.

V. 8 - Tells us that it was more than enough to save and to keep for time and eternity. Every sinner that comes to God in Jesus Christ. Here is the word abound. It means additional gifts. That will come.

effect of Preaching Gospel of Grace -

V. 9 - The mystery of this redemption is hidden from human reason. Finally revealed that it refers to the secret - The Gospel. God's eternal purpose, a mystery which he included to his good pleasure.

That means to be well off - delight, and satisfaction. Now we come to V. 10 - the word (dispensation) here means administration. It means God's dealings. The carrying out of God's purpose. The fulfillment of the times. Gal. 4:4. The point of time completes a long period. The purposes of God is ripe and the season is right - it is time to pluck the fruit. So at the appointed time - God sent forth his son and all the times and seasons had been fixed by the authority of God. Everything in

V. 10

Heaven and earth sums up in Christ - that he might gather in one. Literally head up in all things in that 10th verse.

V. HERITAGE - V. 11-12

We read in these verses that we have obtained an inheritance - that it was according to his purpose. Actually we were made heirs just as Israel had a share in the inheritance. So each believer becomes a partaker of the Heavenly inheritance which Christ has secured for his people.

Heaven is a state in the entire will of God.

In whom also we were made a heritage, we read. It means that we become God's heritage. *Complete victory & glorious triumph.*

Deut. 32:9 - Israel was a particular relation to God. And now he is declaring the part which believers have with Christ. It is described by Peter as incorruptible. That Christ possesses riches in glory by reason of who he is. The Son of the eternal God.

And V. 12 - Takes pride in the position that here we have special privileges. The aim is rather to end that through believers. Observe the word "we who" in the mind of Judas believers whose hope was fixed upon a Messiah before he came and who accepted him and received him.

VI. SECURITY - V. 13-14

This no doubt will be as far as we'll be able to get concerning the spiritual

blessings in this chapter, at this time. But notice here, the blessings that are listed in V. 13-14. It says, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. And in V. 14 - until the redemption is complete. Until the earnest, here is a figure of the Holy Spirit, which is a legal term, a commercial term. Who has made the down payment and the Spirit has pledged that the Christian will one day have complete redemption. Here is the finished transaction and it is rendered as secure because of its ownership. It has been sealed unto the day of redemption. It has been purchased as a possession. Now understand this is referring to God's people, as they come to complete redemption. The sealing of the Holy Spirit is that of ownership. Which we have.

And because of this, you will be blessed in immortality. It doth not yet appear what you shall be. When you shall be unwrapped one day into eternal life. This will be the matter of eternal security which Paul is talking about here.

Moody was conducting a campaign in England, driving along in a buggy, he met a young man that he had seen at church that day. He asked about him. The driver said, see that castle on the hill. With the beautiful grounds around it. It belonged to that young man's father. His father lost it because of gambling and drinking. He died and his mother was left without any means of support - and went to the poor house. This boy, however, was a hard worker. He determined to buy back the castle and the estate which he did. He purchased it and took his mother home - and he is a Christian man. And he attends the meetings that we conduct.

Now that illustration fits redemption and what we have been talking about. The blessings which we have received. That have been passed on to us. Adam lost our estate. But Christ, the redeemer came, and bought it back, with his own blood.

The wages of sin we know is death. But by the dying of Christ - there is life.

A young man serving in the Royal Navy wrote to the soldiers - Scripture Reading Association. About the eternal security of the believer. He received an answer in about five things.

First, someone has to break the seal of the ownership. Which made us God's purchased possession. Eph. 1:13-14.

Second, someone has to pluck us out of the hand of God himself. John 10:29.

Third, someone has to cast out the indwelling spirit of God. I Cor. 3:16. John 14:16.

Fourth, someone has to separate us from the love of Christ. Rom. 8:13-39.

Fifth, someone has to get into Heaven and erase the believer's name from the lamb's book of life. Luke 10:20. Phil. 4:3. Rev. 20:15, 21:27.

Our eternal security is only the starting point. As a believer, we have the privilege of knowing God personally. God will give us strength to live the daily

Christian life.

The things that we have been talking about are most precious to the believer.

Life Beyond The Grave. What do you think will happen when we die?
Do we go out like a light - What kind existence.

Book Gen 50:24-26

Joseph is 110 yr old - Time to die!

Called Elders - Make Swear oath. Bring Bones, Embalm Body out of Egypt
into Promise Land.

100 yr passed & no keeping of God's Promise

200 yr "

393 "

400 " God appeared to Moses Barren Desert, bush, burned, uncoursed

Delayed But Fulfilled -

Spiritual Blessings -

V.4 Election

V.5 Predestination

V.6 - Grace

V.7-10 Redemption

V.11-12 Heritage

V.13-14 Eternal Security.