

Greatly Blessed (Ephesians 1:3-14)

How God Sees You – Part 6

Life Church St. Louis – March 17, 2013

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Hebrews 13:15 (NIV) Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name.

1. Praise God the _____

Ephesians 1:3a (NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ...

A. God has greatly _____ you in Christ

Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

B. God has _____ you to be holy

Ephesians 1:4 (NIV) For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

C. God has predestined you to be His _____

Ephesians 1:5-6 (NIV) In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons 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.

2. Praise God for _____

A. God has _____ and forgiven you

Ephesians 1:7-8 (NIV) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

B. God has made known His _____ to you

Ephesians 1:9-10 (NIV) And 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 will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

C. God has planned for you to bring Him _____

Ephesians 1:11-12 (NIV) 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 hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

3. Praise God for the _____

A. God has _____ you with His Spirit

Ephesians 1:13 (NIV) And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

B. God's Spirit guarantees your _____

Ephesians 1:14 (NIV) who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

Greatly Blessed (Ephesians 1:3-14) – Study Guide

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Intro. Are you a half-glass full or half-glass empty kind of person? Why?

What obstacles in your life do you see to continually praising God (Hebrews 13:15)?

In what ways do you think being more aware of your blessings would help you?

1A. Why do you think the phrase “in Christ” is used so much in this passage regarding our blessings (Ephesians 1:3)?

1B. Why is it significant that you were chosen in Christ before creation (Ephesians 1:4)?

1C. How can understanding that God sees you as His child affect how you see yourself (Ephesians 1:5-6)?

2A. How would you explain Jesus’ redemption to someone who’d never experienced it (Ephesians 1:7-8)?

2B. How does understanding God’s ultimate will help you in day to day life (Ephesians 1:9-10)?

2C. In what ways do you think God has planned for you to be to the praise of His glory (Ephesians 1:11-12)?

2D. What do you think it means to offer a “sacrifice of praise” (Hebrews 13:15)? How can you grow in doing that?

3A. How does a person become included in Christ (Ephesians 1:13)? What is the role of the Holy Spirit?

3B. How would you describe your eternal inheritance to someone (Ephesians 1:14)?

3C. In what ways could you cultivate a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit in your life? How might that help you in praising God?