



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

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Paul is in a Roman prison (60-62 A.D.) and is addressing the existing church in Ephesus. While the church in Ephesus had been established for several years, Paul in this letter counters the false teachings that had started to plague the established church. In Ephesians 1:3-14 the letter appears intended to be encouraging and instructional in sound doctrine.

***3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love **5** He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, **6** to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. (Eph. 1: 3-6 NASB)*

God the Father is blessed and provides every spiritual blessing to us. As believers, we were chosen in Christ, the wonderful mysterious doctrine of election, by the grace of God the Father before the beginning of the world to be holy and blameless before Him in Christ. (v3- 4) In love, the Father adopted us through Jesus Christ into His family for His purpose and not our purpose. (v5) On our own we are not acceptable to God, but by His grace, in and through Christ, we are made acceptable. (v6)

***7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace **8** which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight **9** He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him **10** with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him **11** also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined*

*according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, **12** to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. (Eph. 1: 7-12)*

God the Son redeemed us by His death on the cross. He delivered us from the penalty and power of sin. Christ forgives or sends away our sins due to His grace; the underserved favor or gift that He provides. (v7) Through grace He provides wisdom and insight to us so that we might know His will and serve His purpose at the proper time. (v8-10) Christ is the source for our eternal inheritance. Additionally, God provides us the energy and power to accomplish His will and to give Him praise and glory. (v11-12)

***13** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

God the Holy Spirit seals us forever. These verses reveal the way of salvation; that the sinner hears the message of truth, believes and then Holy Spirit indwells in the believer securing and preserving the believer's eternal salvation. This seal means that God owns us, will keep us and that nobody can break God's seal. We are His and sealed to provide Him praise and glory. (v 13-14)

For Your Consideration:

- Do we provide 'thanksgiving' to God the Father for the spiritual blessings that He provides to us?
- Do we provide 'thanksgiving' to God the Son for redemption of us through His pain, suffering, death on the cross and His resurrection?
- Do we provide 'thanksgiving' to God the Holy Spirit for His indwelling in us for discernment, guidance and the seal and promise of eternal salvation?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS (SESSION OR HEARING DAYS) AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44

STATE STAFF AND LOBBYIST: WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10PM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44