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***Text: Eph. 1:3*** “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,***”

***Intro:*** Who are we? “... just as ***He chose us*** in Him before the foundation of the world, that ***we should be holy and without blame before Him*** in love, having ***predestined us to adoption as sons*** by Jesus Christ to Himself...” Chosen, holy and blameless, adopted as sons, that is who we are!

—“***To the saints who are in Ephesus***”



—Under the Old Covenant, the blessing was physical—***Gen. 13:14–16*** “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; ***for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.*** And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that ***if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.***”

—In the New Covenant, sealed by the blood of Jesus, the blessing is spiritual and heavenly—***Eph. 2:6*** “God... raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

—***The Spiritual Blessings***

—Paul does not leave us wondering what those blessings are, but he lists them for us.

1. “...he chose us in him before the creation of the world...” (v. 4)

—The word “chose” is from the Greek ἐκλέγομαι eklegomai meaning to choose out as the recipients of special favor and privilege.

—Before the foundations of the world were laid, God had determined that all who believed on his Son should be saved.

—Does this mean that some are chosen to be saved, while others are chosen to be damned to eternal punishment.

—God draws us—**John 6:44** “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

—We respond in faith—**Joh 6:39** “And this is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all which He has given Me I should lose nothing but should raise it up again at the last day.”

2. He chose you “...to be holy and blameless in his sight in love.” (v. 4)

—To be “holy” is to be set apart to God, you belong to Him.

—To be “blameless” means in God’s eyes there is no fault or sin that separates you from Him; --God sees you through the lens of His perfect sinless Son.

3. “...he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ...” (v. 5)

—I understand “predestined” in this way; God had an overarching plan to save humanity; to those whose hearts are disposed to receive Him, He draws by His Spirit.

—We are children of God by adoption, this adoption allows us the same rights and privileges of the Son—**Rom. 8:17** “Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

4. “...he has freely given us in the One he loves.” (v. 6)

—You are not rejected. You are not an outcast. You are not unworthy of approval. The Creator of the universe accepts you in Christ.

—You are significant because of Jesus—**Eph. 2:10** “For we are His

workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

5. “...***redemption through his blood***...” (v. 7)

—To be redeemed means to be bought back; isqt carries with it the sense of being released from slavery.

—Jesus’ death paid the price for our release from sin and death—**Lev. 17:11** “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”

6. “...***the forgiveness of sins***...” (v. 7)

—The word “***forgiveness***” in Greek is ἄφεσις aphesis which means to send away as though it never happened.

—God has given up the right to punish us for our sin.

7. “...***in accordance with the riches of God’s grace***...” (v. 7-8)

—All of these blessings are a result of “***grace***” a theme Paul builds on in **Eph. 2:8** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”

—God expressed His grace even when we were lost in sin—**Rom. 5:8** “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

8. “...***he made known to us the mystery of his will***...” (v.9)

—God began to speak of this “***mystery***” in **Gen. 3:15** “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

—Col. 1:27 “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

9. “...***we have obtained an inheritance***...” (v. 11)

—We will inherit the fulness of eternal life in heaven with our Lord—**Rom. 8:23** “Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the

redemption of our body.”

—Not only does the Lord give us an inheritance, we are an inheritance to Him—*Deut. 4:20* “But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people, an inheritance, as you are this day.”

—That is now broader than Israel it includes the Church of Jesus.

—It is “*predestined*” purpose, meaning this is God’s intentional deliberate action—*Eph. 1:12* “that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.”

10. “. . . having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise...” (v. 13)

—A “*seal*” had many different uses, in the ancient world.

—It was placed on a document to guarantee its genuineness.

—It was attached to goods in transit to indicate ownership and ensure protection.

—It also represented a designation of office in the state service.

—The Holy Spirit is “the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” *Eph. 1:14*

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**Who We Are**  
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