

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

Appointed for His Glory

Ephesians 1:7-12

1998

Introduction

Paul started his epistle to the Ephesians with praising God for the spiritual riches (blessings) that we have in Christ - Eph 1:3

In Ephesians 1:4-14 Paul lists some of these marvelous blessings that are ours in Christ.

Verses 4-6 describe the blessings which center around the Father--how we are loved, chosen and accepted by God.

- a. "Chosen by God", to be holy and without blame before Him in love (1:4)
- b. "Predestined by God", to receive the adoption as sons of God (1:5-6a)
- c. "Accepted by God", that is, to be highly favored by Him (1:6b)

You might wonder how we, as sinners, can be so blessed by God? Paul provides the answer

In verses 4-6 by repeatedly referring to Christ:

- 1) "blessed in the heavenly realms IN CHRIST"
- 2) "chose us IN HIM"
- 3) "adopted as His sons THROUGH JESUS CHRIST"
- 4) "made us accepted IN THE ONE HE LOVES"

It is only in and through Jesus Christ that we can receive these glorious

blessings! (Eph 1:3). This truth is highlighted in verses 7-12, as Paul elaborates upon the spiritual blessings possessed by the believer

I God Has Redeemed Us (verse 7a)

Redemption = "A releasing effected by payment of ransom"

Implies:

- The emancipation of slaves or prisoners

Redemption (apolytrōsis) implies setting free a person or group that is under someone else's power or in slavery. In the Old Testament, it is applied to God liberating his people from slavery in Egypt and acquiring them as his own.

John 8:34 "Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

- "Our emancipation...from the guilt, punishment, and power of sin" (Hendriksen)

A. The source of our redemption

1. Jesus Christ

Rom 3:23-24 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

Gal 3:13 "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

John 8:36 "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

B. The basis of our redemption

1. The blood of Christ

Lev 17:11 "For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life."

Heb 9:22 "In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

What was foreshadowed in the Levitical system was realized at the Cross when the Son of God laid down his life in death and ransomed men from sin.

a. The price of our redemption

1 Pet 1:18-19 "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."

Col 1:20 "and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

Through the death of Jesus and the shedding of His blood, God was just to "redeem" or "deliver" sinners from the bondage of sin!

b. The praise for our redemption

By His death on the cross, Jesus has paid the price to deliver us from the bondage of sin, for which He deserves our highest praise!

Rev 5:9 "And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."

Rev 5:12 "In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

C. The goal of our redemption

1. The forgiveness of sins

Forgiveness = "Release from bondage, penalty or imprisonment"

"Forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty"

Because Jesus was crucified for our sins, it is now possible for us to be "forgiven" or "pardoned". We are no longer guilty of or imprisoned by sin!

Sins = Two words in the Greek

Hamartia = denotes our sinful condition

Paraptoma = denotes our sinful acts or deviations from the right path

a. Things that keep us from being "holy and without blame"

b. We can receive "pardon" from such things and be "holy and without blame", through the blood of Christ.

2. Reconciliation with God

Rom 5:10-11 "For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."

D. The motive for our redemption

1. The riches of God's grace – verse 7c

This grace is in proportion to the rich abundance of His grace

Eph 2:4 "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,"

Eph 2:7 "in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus."

a. Lavished on us" – verse 8a

Lavished = "to make overrich, to provide superabundantly."

Titus 3:5-7 "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

Rom 8:32 "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"

b. With wisdom and understanding

The sentence could mean that it was with God's own wisdom and understanding that He lavished his grace-gifts on us, but the context (verse 9) supports the interpretation that wisdom and understanding are themselves among the gifts of God." Especially since the context implies growth in wisdom and understanding, which is clearly unnecessary for God since He is wisdom and understanding.

Wisdom = sophia = "Growth in Christian knowledge, which includes knowledge of God's will and worthy conduct."

"The knowledge which sees into the heart of things, which knows them as they really are"

Theoretical in nature

Col 1:9 "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding."

Phil 1:9-10 "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,"

Understanding = phronesis = to have insight, practical wisdom, and prudence in the management of affairs."

"Understanding/insight which leads to right action"

Defined as "the ability to apply knowledge to the best advantage, enabling a person to use the most effective means for the attainment of the highest goal"

Practical in nature

II God Has Revealed To Us The Mystery Of His Will (verses 9-10)

A. The history of the mystery

1. Not revealed to mankind in other ages - 3:5a

Col 1:25-26 "I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness--the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints."

2. Now revealed by the Spirit to the apostles and prophets - 3:5b;

Rom 16:25-27 "Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic

writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him--to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen."

Col 1:27 "To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

a. Motivated by His good pleasure

1. It pleased God to plan to reveal His will to us
2. It pleased God to predetermine to adopt us as sons through Jesus Christ

Notice that the focus and key to this unfolding mystery is Christ Himself.

B. The timing of the mystery

1. When the times will have reached their fulfillment

NEB (New English Bible) = "when the time was ripe"

a. Refers to a precise moment in time

Gal 4:4-5 "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons."

b. Refers to the coming of Christ

- 1) Particularly to the period which began with Christ's resurrection and coronation
- 2) But not ending until the Lord, upon His glorious return, pronounces and executes judgment

F.F. Bruce: "When all the times and seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority have run their course, God's age-long purpose which He planned in Christ will attain its full fruition."

C. The goal of the mystery

1. To bring all things under Christ

All things = Absolute universality

Col 1:16-17 "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

a. In heaven

Eph 6:12 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

b. On earth

Phil 2:9-11 "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

All will acknowledge Christ's' headship one day, either:

1. Willingly
2. Unwillingly

We also learn that through the Son:

III God Has Appointed Us for The Praise of His Glory (11-12)

"Chose" in verse 4 means "to pick or choose out for one's self"

Chosen = "to choose by lot, or to appoint"

Here it means that we were specially selected as:

A. We are chosen by God

1. To be His purchased possession

Echoes the Old Testament teaching regarding Israel

Deut 7:6-9 "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

In the Old Testament, Israel was regarded as the Lord's inheritance or portion. The church now enters into that same privilege.

But lest we become conceited and self-righteous, God tells us:

Deut 7:6-9 "The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved ..."

Deut 9:5-6 "It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the LORD your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that the LORD your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people."

2 Tim 1:8-10 "[God] has saved us and called us to a holy life-- not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

2. To be His inheritance - 1:18

B. We are predestined to be His heirs

Predestined = To predetermine, decide beforehand

1. We are promised an inheritance

Gal 3:29 "If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

2. We have been qualified by God

Col 1:12 "... giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light."

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."

a. According to His plan

This speaks of the sovereignty of God. It speaks comfort to the believer.

Eph 3:10-11 "His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Rom 8:28-29 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

C. We are created for the praise of His glory

1. We should be cause for praising God

2 Th 1:12 "We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

a. Through our Christ-like actions

Matt 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

b. Through our Christ-like character

Phil 1:9-11 "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-- to the glory and praise of God."

Conclusion

1. In Christ, we have every reason to glorify God, realizing that:
 - a. God has redeemed us (7a)
 - b. God has forgiven us (7b-8)
 - c. God has revealed His Will to us (9-10)
 - d. God has given us an inheritance (11-12)