

## **I have been Blessed**

Ephesians 1: 3 (3-14)

I want to use [V.3](#) as our text verse, but we will deal with several verses in this chapter. This world looks upon us and fails to realize just what we have been given of the Lord. Most view blessings from a temporal standpoint, but I prefer to count them from an eternal standpoint. I have received blessings this world cannot afford. The world didn't give them to me and this world can't take them away. When this old sinful world and all it offers have been consumed by fire, the believer's blessings will remain.

As we move through these verses, I hope to remind you of what you have in the Lord. You may not have all you desire from a physical perspective, but if you are saved, you have been blessed. I want to preach with that thought in mind. As we look at these verses, I trust you will be reminded and appreciate all the blessings that we have because of our relationship with the Lord. Let's look at these abundant blessings as we consider: I have been Blessed.

**I. The Identity of These Blessings** (3) – Here we find how to identify the blessings of the Lord. The blessings He gives are unmistakable. Consider:

**A. Their Source** – [Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who hath blessed us.](#) Here Paul reveals the source of our blessings. They are given from God who hath blessed us. I'm sure we would all have to agree that we have many blessings in our lives. Those blessings came from the good hand of God. He is the One who is responsible for the blessings we receive. If you have been blessed in any way, those blessings originated from the Lord.

- Isn't that a blessing! The God of glory, the Almighty Creator takes the time to see to it that we are blessed by His gracious hand. [James 1:17 – Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.](#) Luck or coincidence should have no place in the Christian vocabulary. We don't wander aimlessly through life and stumble across blessings. God has blessed us; every good gift we receive comes from the Lord!

**B. Their Scope** – This verse not only reveals who gives our blessings, but it also deals with what He gives. Look closely; I don't want you to miss this. We find that God [has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.](#) He hasn't provided some of our blessings, or even most of our blessings. God has provided all of the spiritual blessings we enjoy. He may choose to use a human instrument to bring it your way, but God gave it. That verse in James confirms God

is the One who provides all blessings, even those in the physical realm. [Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above](#). If you are blessed, it all came from God.

- Take just a moment to consider all you have received in this life. Consider your salvation, your fellowship, your church family, the wisdom and growth you have obtained in the Lord; consider all of it. Now just sum it all up in one realization: God gave all that to us! Isn't that amazing? Now let's look at just what we've been given as we consider:

**II. The Quality of These Blessings (4-14)** – I have received some nice gifts in life, but none compare to what I've been given in the Lord. Every believer has been given each of these quality blessings. If you are a child of God you have been given each and every one of the blessings revealed in the following verses. Notice:

**A. Our Election (4)** – [According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love](#). We were chosen of God before He ever created the world. God had chosen each of us before He ever created Adam. God knew us and knew we would belong to Him before we were in our mother's womb! We were chosen to be [holy, set apart, consecrated unto God](#). The Lord chose to make us holy before we were ever born. We were chosen to be [without blame before Him](#): that is we were *chosen to be free from sin, above reproach, and without fault, blemish, or defilement*.

- God chose us to be set apart unto Him before we had ever heard the gospel. I don't know what you believe about predestination, but God predestined us to belong to Him. I don't believe men were born to die lost, without the possibility of salvation; but I have no problem believing God knew I would trust His Son as the Savior of my soul before I ever did!

**B. Our Adoption (5)** – [Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will](#). At the moment we were saved, we were adopted into the family of God. That is the only way we could become the children of God. We were born in sin, separated from God. We did not belong to the Lord's family, so adoption through salvation was our only hope. God blessed us with the glorious privilege of becoming His child. [John 1:12 – But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name](#).

- Let's take a moment to discuss adoption. In the ancient world adoption was a serious matter. The family was ruled by the father. He had supreme authority over his children. If he chose, he could work, enslave, sell, or even pronounce the death penalty. This authority was

limited when it came to adoption. Adopted children fell under a more stringent set of rules. **1) The adopted son was adopted permanently.** He could not be adopted today and disinherited tomorrow. He became a son of the father—forever. **2) The adopted son immediately had all the rights of a legitimate son in the new family.** **3) The adopted son completely lost all rights in his old family.** He was looked upon as a new person—so new that old debts and obligations connected with his former family were cancelled out and abolished as if they never existed. Are you beginning to get the picture? We are adopted forever, never to lose our inheritance. We have all the rights and privileges of a son. We lost all rights and obligations to the old family of sin. All of our debt was paid in full, never to be remembered. Praise God I have been adopted and made an eternal son of God!

**C. Our Reception (6)** – [To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.](#) We are no longer strangers or outcasts. We are no longer viewed as someone who has no rights or association with the family. We have been given a place in the family and we are accepted of the Father as one of His many children. I can go to Him at any time for any reason and He will be attentive unto me. We have been accepted in such a fashion that all the Father has is at our disposal. We have access to all that heaven affords! Children are welcome at the Father's house. [Phil.4:19 – But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.](#) As the children of God we need not fear being rejected or turned away as we approach the Lord through the throne of grace.

**D. Our Redemption (7)** – [In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.](#) The children of God have been redeemed through His mercy and grace by the blood that was shed on the cross of Calvary. We have been forgiven of the sin debt we stood accountable to pay. Redemption pictures a slave that has been purchased and set free. I often think of the beautiful story of Hosea and Gomer. She became an adulterous wife and committed great sin against her husband. It wasn't long until Gomer became a slave to her sinful lusts. One day there was an auction in town and Hosea heard that Gomer was to be sold to the highest bidder. In love and mercy he went and purchased her from the slave block and took her back unto himself.

- Is that not how each of us was? We were bound in the bondage of sin. Our lives were a mess. There was nothing desirable about any of us. We were clothed in the rags of sin, filthy and dirty, deserving of death. As we stood upon the slave block, the Master came along and said, "I will pay his ransom." When I was unlovable, Jesus loved me and purchased, setting me free from the debt that I owed. He cleansed me in His precious blood and made me one of His own.

**E. Our Possession (9-11)** – The blessings we have considered thus far are enough to rejoice about. God has already done much more for us than we could ever deserve. Just being forgiven and accepted of Him is enough. But, God has much more in store for His children. He is right now preparing a heavenly home for those who belong to Him. We will one day inherit the abundance of heaven. We are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. [Rom.8:16-17 – The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: <sup>\[17\]</sup> And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.](#) One day our faith will end in sight. This life of heartache and pain will not last forever. We will one day hear our Savior call our name and we will enter into the heavenly home He has prepared for us!

**F. Our Preservation (13-14)** – If you are saved, you are as good as there. We may be living in this body of flesh, but in all reality we are already there. There is nothing that will keep you from inheriting all that God has for us. John saw the holy city and the saints of God gathered around the throne worshipping the Lord. As he looked upon that glorious scene of the future, some 2,000 years ago, he saw us! We were there worshipping our blessed Redeemer. There is nothing that will prevent the saved from gathering together in heaven.

- [We are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession.](#) Do you understand what that is saying? An earnest is a down payment. Jesus purchased our redemption as He died on the cross and rose victorious over sin and death. We are now His possession. When Jesus ascended back to the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to indwell the believer. We are sealed by the Spirit of God. The Spirit stands as the down payment, the promise that Christ will return for all of those whom He has purchased. The saved are going to make it to heaven! I quote these verses often, but I love them; they give me hope and assurance. [John 10:28-29 – And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. <sup>\[29\]</sup> My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.](#) We are secure in the Lord!

**III. The Necessity of These Blessings (3)** – In closing, Paul reveals a specific requirement to obtain these blessings. The Bible tells us that all of this is [in Christ](#). All of the blessings that I have shared with you hinge upon being in Christ. There is no other way to obtain them. It is necessary to be in Christ. What is involved in that? Well there is only one requirement, and only one thing that will satisfy this demand: being born again into the family of God. These blessings are reserved for those who belong to the Lord. Are you saved? Have you received Christ as your personal Savior? If not you need to or you will miss out on all of the blessings we have considered! Why not come as He leads?