

Ephesians 1:3-15

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us
in Christ
with *every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places*.

⁴For example,

1. ***He chose us*** in Christ before the foundation of the world
 - a. *to be holy and blameless* before him in love.
2. ***He destined us***
 - a. for ***adoption as his children*** through Jesus Christ,
 - i. according to the good pleasure of his will,
 - ii. ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace
3. ***All of this was a gift***, unmerited, bestowed on us for free by (Jesus) the Beloved.

⁷Because of him

4. **we have *redemption***:

- a. forgiveness for all the laws of God we have broken
- b. set free from sin to belong to God's family again,
- c. all paid for by the infinitely expensive life-blood of Jesus
- d. like a gift ⁸lavished on us for free

Further,

5. ⁹He has ***given us wisdom and insight***

6. to ***enable us to know the mystery of his will***:

God's eager desire and eternal plan, set forth and implemented by Christ

- a. ¹⁰to bring human history to a conclusion ("the fullness of time"),
- b. by bringing together and making sense of
 - all the unresolved loose ends of life
 - loose ends both in heaven and on earth.

¹¹Also because of Christ,

According to God's purpose,

whose counsel and will is always accomplished,

Having set our hope on him as our first priority

we have *obtained an inheritance (in heaven)*:

we are those who have been chosen by God

¹²***to exist and live (now and forever) for the praise of his glory.***

¹³And also in him

- *when you had heard* the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation,
- *and had out your trust in him,*

7. **you *were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit***;

- a. ¹⁴this is *the pledge of our future inheritance* in heaven
- b. Where we will be fully ***redeemed: restored as God's own people***,
to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,
and for this reason

Sermon Notes: My Prayer National Presbyterian Church, September 11, 2022 David A. Renwick

Ephesians 1 – Translation NRSV and Dr. Renwick

Ephesians 1:16-23

¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

¹⁷I pray that
the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may give you

1. a spirit of *wisdom and revelation*
 - through which you *come to know him*,
2. ¹⁸so that, with (God's) *light shining into the eyes of your heart*,
3. you may know
 - the *hope* to which he has called you,
 - the *size of his wealth* – the glorious inheritance – bestowed on you, his saints,
 - ¹⁹and *the immeasurable greatness of his dynamic power, his energy and great strength*, for us who believe. . .

²⁰God put this power to work in Christ

1. when he *raised him from the dead*
2. and *seated him at his right hand*
 - a. in the heavenly places,
 - b. ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion,
 - c. and above every name that is named,
 - d. not only *in this age but also in the age to come*.
 - e. ²²And he has *put all things under his feet*
 - f. and has made him *the head over all things*.

for (us) -- the church,

- i. ²³*which is his body,*
- ii. *The overflowing visible expression of God that people can see*

-- the God who fills all in all.

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