

Studies in Ephesians

Lesson II

TEXT: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

¹¹In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Questions for Discussion

1. How many times does the expression "in Christ" appear in our text?
2. What spiritual blessings are we introduced to by virtue of being "in him" (Christ)?
 - a. Being c_____ to be h_____ and b_____ (vs. 4)
 - b. R_____ through his _____ (vs. 7a)
 - c. F_____ of sins (vs. 7b)
 - d. All w_____ and u_____ (vs. 8)
 - e. The m_____ of his _____ (vs. 9)
 - f. What other blessings come from being "in Him" according to this passage?
3. What does it mean to be chosen by God (cf. vv. 4 & 11)? God has "predestined us" to adoption *through whom* and *according to what*? (cf. vv. 5 & 11)?
 - a. Does this mean that you and I had no choice in the matter? That we were wooed by God's "irresistible grace"? (before answering, read Deuteronomy 30:19-20; Joshua 24:14-16; 2 Kings 18:31-32; Proverbs 1:29-31; 3:31-32; 8:10-11; 16:16; Hosea 8:4; John 7:17; James 4:4)
 - b. While it is clear that we have a choice in whether or not to receive Jesus, the ultimate choice that determines our eternal destiny belongs to whom? (Matthew 11:27; John 15:16)