

“A Little Certainty During Uncertain Times”
A Sermon on Ephesians 1:1-14
March 22, 2020
Pastor Michael Porter

Sermon Text: Ephesians 1:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:
² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

⁷ *In him we have redemption* through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ *In him we have obtained an inheritance*, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

¹³ *In him you also*, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, *were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit*, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Main Idea: Even in times of uncertainty, our spiritual blessings in Christ are guaranteed.

Sermon Outline:

- I. The Blessing of Redemption (Eph. 1:1-10; esp. vv. 7-10)
- II. The Blessing of Adoption (Eph. 1:11-12)
- III. The Blessing of Being Sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14)

Context of the Passage

I Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
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² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Sermon Notes:

Point #1: The Blessing of Redemption (Eph. 1:7-10)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Sermon Notes:

Point #2: The Blessing of Adoption (Eph. 1:11-12)

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

Sermon Notes:

Point #3: The Blessing of Being Sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14)

13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Sermon Notes:

Spiritual Growth Questions for March 22, 2020

1. Read Ephesians 1:1-14 as a group and discuss your initial impressions of the text as a whole.
2. Look at vv. 1-2. What stands out to you about the way Paul introduces himself? Does this impact the way you view the place and role God has called you to?
3. Look at vv. 3-6. Paul praises God that he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing “*in Christ*.” (Look also at v. 7, 11, and 13’s repetition of “*In him*.”) Discuss what this phrase means and why this is essential to the Christian faith.
4. Look at v. 7. The first spiritual blessing that Paul unpacks is our redemption. What are we redeemed from and why does “his blood” accomplish our redemption?
5. Look at vv. 7-10. Paul mentions the mystery of God’s will for creation that was set forth in Christ. What is this referring to and what will be the end result?
6. Look at vv. 11-12. The second spiritual blessing that Paul unpacks is our inheritance. An inheritance implies our adoption into the family of God as heirs (cf. v. 5). How does this impact and/or challenge the way you view your own self-worth?
7. Look at vv. 13-14. The third spiritual blessing that Paul unpacks is the guarantee of the previous two blessings by the sealing of the Holy Spirit. It is this seal of approval by none other than God the Spirit that moves Paul to conclude with, “to the praise of his glory.” Does this passage move you to praise God in a similar manner? If not, what needs to change in your life or in your understanding of God that will move you to live to the praise of his glory?