

## OUR BLESSINGS IN CHRIST

(Ephesians 1:4-6)

- I. Introduction (Eph. 1:3)
  - A. Our blessings are supplied by GOD in CHRIST
  - B. Our blessings are SPIRITUAL and HEAVENLY
    - 1. In CHARACTER
    - 2. In ORIGIN
    - 3. In FULFILLMENT
  
- II. We Are CHOSEN in HIM (Eph. 1:4)
  - A. This was ACCOMPLISHED by the FATHER
    - 1. “Just as” means “through the MEANS OF”
    - 2. “Chose” means “to select SPECIFIC ONES from a larger group for ONESELF” (John 15:16, 19; cf. 6:37-40, 44; also Rev. 3:20; cf. John 10:1-5, 26-30)
    - 3. “Us” refers to INDIVIDUALS
  - B. This was done PRIOR to CREATION
  - C. This act UNITED us to CHRIST
    - 1. To make us HOLY—an EXTERNAL righteousness, or observable BEHAVIOR (cf. 1 Pet. 1:2; Acts 2:23)
    - 2. To make us BLAMELESS—an INTERNAL guiltlessness, or CHARACTER (Rom. 8:33)
  
- III. We Are PREDESTINED to ADOPTION (Eph. 1:5)

- A. This demonstrated GOD’S LOVE
  - B. This established a FAMILY relationship with GOD (John 1:12-13; Gal. 4:5; Rom. 8:28-30)
  - C. This was based upon the “GOOD PLEASURE” or “KIND INTENTION” of his WILL (cf. Heb. 12:6-11)
- IV. We Are SAVED for HIS GLORY (Eph. 1:6)
- A. This was done to bring PRAISE to HIM
  - B. This was done to reveal the GLORY of His GRACE
    - 1. Not because of ANYTHING IN US
    - 2. Based solely upon the MERIT of CHRIST
- V. Our Salvation Is, Therefore, ETERNAL—For one thing...
- A. Its initiation was the PLAN of God BEFORE CREATION
  - B. Its application is the POWER of God in TIME
    - 1. He saves us when we are HELPLESS, LOST, WORTHLESS, and REBELLIOUS (Rom. 3:10-23; Eph. 2:1-3)
    - 2. But He does not negate our RESPONSIBILITY to RESPOND (Acts 16:31; John 3:36; Eph. 1:12-13)
  - C. Its consummation is the PURPOSE of God in ETERNITY (Phil. 1:6; cf. 2 Cor. 6:16 - 7:1)