

The 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 11, 2016

“Alive in Christ: Blessed in Christ”

Ephesians 1:1-14

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

*apostolos* = **apostle** =

Apostle is used for those God uniquely chose to be the foundation layers of the church and the \_\_\_\_\_, teachers, and \_\_\_\_\_ of the NT.

An apostle’s apostolic duties were to:

Paul is clear here that his credentials were not his academic training, nor his lineage, but his being an apostle “by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.”

The birth of the church in Ephesus provided a home base from which to \_\_\_\_\_ all of the province of Asia.

“So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.” (Acts 19:20)

*hagios* = **saint** =

*pistos* = **faithful** =

The Ephesians had been set apart through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

This is the divine exchange of the gospel—when a person acts in faith to \_\_\_\_\_ in, and \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus, God acts in \_\_\_\_\_ to give that person Christ’s righteousness.

Ephesians were rich because of all the \_\_\_\_\_ they had in Christ.

“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.” (Ephesians 1:3)

God’s heavenly bank has no such \_\_\_\_\_ or restrictions; and no believer has any reason to be spiritually deprived or impoverished.

Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_, the sphere, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of every spiritual blessing and of all the spiritual riches, and those who are in Him have \_\_\_\_\_ access to all that He is and has

“fellow heirs with Christ.” (Romans 8:17)

“one spirit with Christ.” (1 Corinthians 6:17)

“He is not ashamed to call us brother or sister” (Hebrews 2:11)

He will share with us all that He possesses—an \_\_\_\_\_, which “imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for us.” (1 Peter 1:4)

**5 SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST**

**Blessing #1. In Christ we have been \_\_\_\_\_.**

“Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.” (Ephesians 1:4)

“In Christ” is used in Paul’s writings to express the \_\_\_\_\_ that a believer has with God.

It speaks of our standing with God, in that when God looks at us, He sees \_\_\_\_\_ because we are in Him.

God doesn’t just call those who are fit; He \_\_\_\_\_ those who are called.

He does this to \_\_\_\_\_ the playing field—so that so no one can \_\_\_\_\_ about being chosen or about how gifted they are.

“For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” (Romans 8:29)

Not only does Paul tell us that God chose us in Christ—He also tells us that He chose us for a \_\_\_\_\_: to holy and \_\_\_\_\_.  
**amomos** = **blameless** =

God has set us apart—He’s chosen us and called us to be different—He wants

us to live \_\_\_\_\_ lives.

**Blessings #2. In Christ we have a \_\_\_\_\_.**

“God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.” (Ephesians 1:5-6)

According to Paul, our destiny is \_\_\_\_\_.

When a person comes to faith in Jesus, he or she is adopted into God’s family—with all of it’s \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

“...God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, ‘Abba, Father.’ Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.” (Galatians 4:4-7)

In the world, value and worth are based on:

In the K of G, our value and worth are not based on:

**Blessings #3. In Christ we have \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins.**

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight.” (Ephesians 1:7-8)

***apolytroxis* = redemption =**

It literally means ‘to \_\_\_\_\_ and set \_\_\_\_\_ by paying a price.’

Scripture is clear that the wages of sin is \_\_\_\_\_. Somebody had to pay the \_\_\_\_\_ for everything we’ve done wrong.

Jesus paid that price with His \_\_\_\_\_.

“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver and gold that you were redeemed, but with the precious blood of Christ.” (1 Peter 1:18)

“I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.” (John 8:34-36)

**Blessing #4. In Christ we are in the \_\_\_\_\_.**

“God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.” (Ephesians 1:9-10)

The mystery of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ has been revealed to us. We know the story—we know God’s plan of \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ—and we know how the story is going to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Blessing #5. In Christ we are \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit.**

“In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.” (Eph 1:13-14)

God hasn’t left us here on our own to accomplish His purpose in our lives. He has given us His \_\_\_\_\_ to enable us and give us the power to accomplish it.

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:3-6)

***sphragizo* = seal =**

The presence of the Holy Spirit in a believer’s life guarantees that they have \_\_\_\_\_ God—that they’re the real deal; it shows who they belong to; and ensures their \_\_\_\_\_ from the enemy—it marks and seals them as \_\_\_\_\_ own forever. This seal should be \_\_\_\_\_ in the way we live and by presence of the \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

**Am I in Christ? Do I see evidence of these blessings in my life?**

“...if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)