



Poema

“What Was God Thinking? Part 1”

Ephesians 1:3

Being forgiven of our sin and given assurance of heaven when we die is an incredible promise afforded to all people who believe in the work of Jesus Christ. Many of us, for good reason, can't fully grasp the completeness of Jesus' actions for our redemption.

Because of this lack of understanding, we tend to think we somehow need to work off the favor. In other words, surely there is something we should do to let God know He did not make a mistake in saving us. Consequently, we approach the “free gift” of salvation with the attitude of payback through religious piety.

The book of Ephesians makes it crystal clear. Salvation originated in the mind of God the Father in eternity past. It is demonstrated by God the Son on the cross. It is empowered by God the Spirit in the minds and hearts of those chosen by God for salvation.

In the original Greek, Ephesians 1:3-14 is one sentence. It encompasses the past, present, and future of God's eternal purpose for the church. It is Paul's outline explaining God's master plan for salvation. In vv.3-6 we are shown the past aspect, election; in vv.7-11 we are shown the present aspect, redemption; and in vv.12-14 we are shown the future aspect, inheritance.

In these sections within vv.3-14, a focus is given to each of the Persons of the Godhead. Verses 3-6 focus on God the Father, vv. 7-11 focus on God the Son, and vv.12-14 focus on God the Spirit. All the blessings and treasures that belong to those in Christ come from the Trinity. Each Person of the Godhead is actively involved in our salvation, sanctification, and future glorification.

There are two major truths to learn from vv.3-6 about God the Father's initiation for our salvation. Today, we will focus on the first of these two truths in order to better understand our salvation.

The Father's divine BLESSING in the foundation of our SALVATION. (Ephesians 1:3)

In verse 3, Paul unfolds FIVE divine blessings: the blesser, the blessed ones, the blessing, the place of blessing, and the agent of blessing.

The blesser – God THE FATHER.
(cf. James 1:17)

God the Father blesses because He is the source of blessing, of every good thing. Goodness can only come from God because there is no source of goodness outside of God.

The blessed – all BELIEVERS.
(cf. Ephesians 1:1)

God does not bless us **for** our goodness, because we have none. Rather, He blesses us **with** goodness.

The blessing – everything SPIRITUAL.

(cf. Romans 5:5; John 14:27, 15:11; 2 Peter 1:3; Philippians 1:19)

In the New Testament, the word **spiritual** (*pneumatikos*) is always used in relation to the work of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, this verse does not refer to immaterial blessings as opposed to material ones. It is referring to the divine origin of the blessings. Whether these blessings help us in our spirit, our mind, our body, our daily living, or however else, **Spiritual** refers to the source – not the extent of **blessing**.

The location of the blessing – the HEAVENLY PLACES.

(cf. Colossians 3:1; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 6:10; Romans 7:15, 18-19)

These abundant, unlimited blessings from God are in “...**the heavenly places**...” More than heaven itself is included. The “...**heavenly places**...” encompass the entire supernatural realm of God: His complete domain, and the full extent of His divine operation.

The agent of the blessing – JESUS CHRIST.

(cf. 1 Corinthians 6:17; Romans 8:16-17)

Christ’s riches are our riches. His resources are our resources. His righteousness is our righteousness. His position is our position. Where He is, we are. His privilege is our privilege. His possession is our possession. What He does, we do.

APPLICATION

Shake off the notion that salvation has anything to do with US.

Be satisfied that we owe God NOTHING for His blessing. He has chosen to bless us in this way based on His own divine WILL.

cd.TCT.101616

www.thechurchattampa.com | @thechurchatTPA