



Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

Volume 6 - Number 9  
The week of January 24, 2021

**Christ in You: *Enjoying Our Union with Christ***

The Fount of Every Blessing

Ephesians 1:3-14

***Discussion Opener: Was there any I-never-thought-about-that-before insight from Sunday's message?***

**STUDY NOTE**

In the original language, verses 3-14 form one long sentence. In fact, this sentence is considered to be one of the most rich and complex passages in the New Testament. It is one flowing, sublime statement of praise to God for the blessings we have received from our union with Christ. Eleven times this passage identifies that the source of all our blessings is to found "in Christ," "in Him," or "in the Beloved."

**FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING**

Read Ephesians 1:3

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."

1. What do you think it means to have "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places?"

***In this passage, Paul uses four images to show the stupendous blessings resulting from our union with Christ.***

**I. ELECTION IN CHRIST**

Read Ephesians 1:4

4 "Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him."

We must not diminish what Paul writes here. We are chosen by God before we have done anything or been anything for God. This verse has sparked some long conversations in the attempt to reconcile human responsibility with divine sovereignty. Its purpose is not to provoke debate but to enhance our joy.

2. How does this truth strengthen your hope and increase your joy knowing that your union with Christ was before the world was made?

## II. ADOPTION IN CHRIST

Read Ephesians 1:5-6

“In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.”

### STUDY NOTE

When Paul writes to the churches in and around Ephesus and says that in love God adopted them, he is writing to a culture where babies were routinely abandoned. Historians describe that outside the eastern gate of Ephesus there was a garbage dump where people would frequently abandon babies they did not want to keep.

John Stott wrote, “When people ask us the speculative question why God went ahead with the creation when he knew that it would be followed by the fall, one answer we can tentatively give is that he destined us for a higher dignity than even creation would bestow on us.”

3. What does it mean to say that God adopted you? Take a moment and express what that means in your own words.
4. How does this help you grasp your core identity as a Christian?

## III. REDEMPTION IN CHRIST

Read Ephesians 1:7-12

<sup>7</sup>“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.”

### STUDY NOTE

Paul is writing to a slave culture. Ephesus had one of the largest slave markets in the Roman world. Paul is writing to a culture where people were bought and sold. Redemption always implies a price being paid for the freedom purchased. The price for our salvation was the blood of Jesus.

5. What does it mean to know that God redeemed or bought you?

6. Verses 9-12 are a powerful statement of God's invincible purpose. As you listen to the news on any given day, do you see anything that could thwart God's plan?

#### **IV. CERTIFICATION IN CHRIST**

Read Ephesians 1:13-14

<sup>13</sup> "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, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

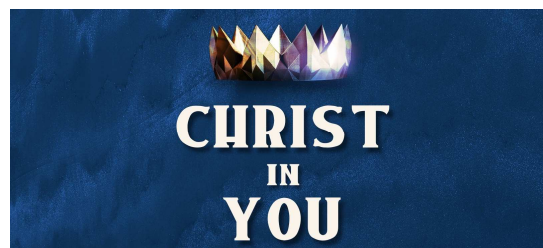
#### **STUDY NOTE**

In Ephesus, slaves were tattooed with the family seal of the estate they were serving. The seal was a mark of ownership. The Holy Spirit has put His mark on us.

7. What is the purpose for being sealed with the Holy Spirit?

8. How certain is this inheritance that is promised to us?

9. If the grasp of our union with Christ has its intended effect, what difference should it make in our personal lives? In our church? In our families?



Sermon Notes: *The Fount of Every Blessing*

Ephesians 1:3-14

THE  
**BIBLE RECAP**  
BY D-GROUP

Sunday, January 24 thru Saturday, January 30, 2021

Genesis 35-37, Genesis 38-40, Genesis 41-42,  
Genesis 43-45, Genesis 46-47, Genesis 48-50, Exodus 1-3