

Episode #1005 Ephesians 1 Part 4 — Blessing Upon Blessing

- I. The purpose of Paul's epistle to the Ephesians is to tell us what God's present purpose is in all His work today. This includes His work in the world and in the individual believer. Ephesians is the book of God's present purpose, the book of being "in Christ," and the book of God's grace.
- II. The longest sentence in the Bible is found in Ephesians 1:3-14. From verse 3, we learned that the subject is "God," the verb is "blesses," and the direct object is "us," those who are "in Christ." God makes these things true of us, and then He speaks well of us about them. Therefore, this sentence is a long statement of all the glorious things God makes true of us in Christ. In verses 4-6, we learned that we are chosen in Christ to be holy and flawless in His sight, we are predestined to be adopted as sons, and we will extol the glories of His grace.
- III. Ephesians 1:7. The blessings continue: we have redemption through His blood.
 - A. The redemption frees us from sin and death.
 - B. The redemption means our sins are forgiven!
 - C. The outflowing wealth of His grace maintains and supports our redemption and forgiveness.
- IV. Ephesians 1:8. He lavishes this on us in all wisdom and prudence.
 - A. It might seem like doing this for sinners would be foolish, as if God was a senile father doting on His worthless children. Yet this is not the way it is.
 - B. God was wise to forgive us, and was wise in how He gives us His grace. This is no foolish thing!
- V. Ephesians 1:9. He makes known to us the secret of His intention.
 - A. Greek *mysterion* does not mean what our English word "mystery" means. Instead, it should be translated by our English word "secret."
 - B. When God talks about a "secret," this means it was not previously revealed, but is now being revealed through the Scripture we are reading.
 - C. His intention in doing all this is His good pleasure! It pleases Him to bless us because of His love for us.
 - D. He purposes all this in Christ.
- VI. Conclusion: In this, the longest sentence in the Bible, we learn all the glorious things God says are true of us in Christ. In verse 7, we learn that we have the redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, in accord with the outflowing wealth of His grace. In verse 8, we learn that God does not lavish this on us foolishly, but in wisdom and prudence. In verse 9, we learn that God makes known to us the secret of His intention in doing all this: it all accords with His good pleasure and His purpose in Christ. Praise God for the wonder of His forgiveness granted to sinners like us!