

EPHESIANS CHAPTER 1:3,4 - FULL, ETERNAL AND GLORIOUS BLESSINGS

- I. A FULL BLESSING - vs. 3 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”
 - A. God’s exaltation - Paul begins a 7-blessing doxology in a long, continuous sentence of praise.
 - B. How can we “bless” God?
 - C. “Eulogetos” and “Makarios” compared. “Eulogetos” used of God only. Definition: to be adored, lifted up, praised. “Makarios” is used of God and man. Definition: state of God-conferred benefits, both material but mostly spiritual, as in the Beatitudes.
 - D. “God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” - Why does Jesus, who is God Himself, call His Father His God? (Matthew 27:46; John 20:17)
 - E. “who has blessed us” - the Church, and ultimately individual believing, faithful saints. Not a future only blessing, but a past, present and eternal enjoyment of grace, mercy and sonship.
 - F. “with every spiritual blessing” - not just a sprinkling, but a perpetual fountain of God’s love lavished upon those who have found mercy through Christ.
 - G. “in the heavenly *places*” - see chapter 2:4-7 and Phil. 3:20. These blessings are “heavenly”, they come from heaven. They fit us for heaven. We are children of the Kingdom.
 - H. “in Christ” - Christ is the cornerstone of our salvation, and Paul emphasizes and reemphasizes this 12 times in his letter.

- II. AN ETERNAL BLESSING - vs. 4, “Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love . . .”
 - A. “Just as He chose us in Him” - the doctrine of Election
 - B. “Just as”
 - C. God is sovereign - the doctrine of Divine Sovereignty - Isa. 46:10; Eph. 1:1; Heb. 6:17; Rom. 9:15,18; James 1:13; John 1:5; Acts 4:27,28; Num. 23:19; Eph. 1:3-5.
 - D. Mankind is totally lost, dead in sin, and unable to seek after God - the doctrine of Absolute or Total Inability - Romans 5:6-9; Ephesians 2:1-10 (with the story of Lazarus); John 6:44,65,66; Matt. 8:21,22; Luke 11:13; II Peter 1:1; Philippians 1:6,29; I Cor. 26-

- 31; Colossians 2:13; Genesis 2:17 with Romans 5:12; Ecclesiastes 7:29; John 3:5; Matthew 11:25-27; Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9;13:23; Psalm 143:2; Proverbs 20:29; II Cor. 4:3,4; Romans 8:7,8; I Cor. 2:14
Romans 3:10-18 - the litany of sinfulness in unbelievers. II Timothy 2:25; Titus 3:3-5;
- E. Election defined: “to select from a number.”
 - F. Election in Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3; Nehemiah 9:7; Deut. 14:2; Deut. 7:7, 8; Psalm 89:3; Jeremiah 1:5; John 6:37,39,44; 10:27-29; 17:2; Acts 22:14; Romans 8:30; 9:11; II Thes. 2:13,14; II Tim. 1:9; I Peter 2:4; John 15:16,19; Acts 13:48;
 - G. “in Him” - Christ is the sole foundation of the Church. Christ was our Representative and Substitute in eternity past - Covenant of Grace. Hebrews 10:5-7;
 - H. “before the foundation of the world”
 - I. “that we should be holy and without blame before Him”
 - J. “in love” - Ephesians 3:13-19

III. APPLICATION - A GLORIOUS BLESSING

- A. The most humbling doctrine
- B. A most glorious doctrine - Romans 11:33
- C. A most energizing doctrine