

1 **COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS**

Ephesians 1:1-3

2 **THE BLESSINGS PREVIEWED**

- Promise of a Picture
- NUGGET OF GOLD
- In this one verse Paul gives us the revelation of all the riches of God's blessings in a nutshell

3 **COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS**

- In our text there are three words – Blessed (*eulogetos*) – Blessed (*eulogesas*) – Blessing – (*eulogia*)
- The same root word – *eulogeo*: which means *to speak well of; to bless, ascribe praise and glorification*
- English word *eulogy* comes from this Greek word.

4 **THE BLESSER – THE SOURCE OF THE BLESSINGS**

- The Blessor Identified – “*the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us*”
- God blesses because He is good.
- God blesses because He is the source of every good thing – the Giver of every blessing!
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5 **BLESSINGS ARE GOOD**

- There is no source of goodness and blessing outside of God.
- James 1:17: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*
- Romans 8:28: *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

6 **THE BLESSER IS BLESSED (EULOGETOS)**

- “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*”
- In the N. T. This word is used exclusively of God. God blesses us with both spiritual and material blessings.
- We have nothing that we can give to God – EXCEPT – one thing – our blessings of praise to God for His goodness

7 **DAVID UNDERSTOOD THIS GREAT TRUTH:**

- Psalm 34:1-3: *I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. ² My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. ³ Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.*
- Psalm 102:1-2: *Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”*

8 **KENNETH WUEST**

- “*When we bless God, we praise Him, speak well of Him. When He blesses us, it is not that He speaks us good but He does us good. Our blessing is in word. His is in deed. He confers benefits on us.”*
 - *Word Studies in the Greek New Testament, Vol. 1, Ephesians & Colossians, p. 26*

9 **THE SUBJECT OF THE BLESSINGS – THE BLESSED**

- “. . . *who has blessed us*” – “*Us*” refers to a distinct and restricted group of people – 1:1 tells us who they are – “*the saints who are in Ephesus*” – The “*faithful in Christ Jesus*”
- Every saint (Christian) down through history

10 **HOW CAN WE KNOW WHETHER OR NOT WE QUALIFY AS RECIPIENTS OF THE BLESSINGS?**

- Two personal pronouns:
 - “. . . *our Lord Jesus Christ*” – Is He yours?
 - Confrontation with Jesus Christ – Decision to accept or reject Him
 - Meaning of *saint* – “holy ones”
 - Every born again believer is a saint

11 **MAIN CONCERN: ARE WE IN THIS “US”?**

- 2 Cor. 13:5: *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you are disqualified.*
- 1 John 5:13: *“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”*

12 **THE BLESSINGS**

- When are the blessings ours?
- Tense of the verb gives the answer – “*has blessed*”
- ALL OURS NOW!!!
- It grieves God when we live as spiritual paupers when we have already inherited rich treasures – *ALL THE BLESSINGS OF GOD!*

13 **NATURAL BRIDGE CAVERNS**

- Narrow entrance – As you go in it gets wider and higher until it comes a cavern. Salvation is like that – As we grow in grace it becomes deeper and wider.

14 **THE SPHERE OF THE BLESSINGS**

- v. 3: “. . . *has blessed us with every spiritual blessing*”
- *spiritual* = *pneumatikos*”
- In the N. T. This word is always used to refer to the work of the Holy Spirit
- He is talking about the divine origin of the blessings – The Holy Spirit

15 **LAST SERMON – THE RESERVES OF HEAVEN’S BANK**

- Last point that we didn’t cover – THE FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT
- Ephesians 5:18: *“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”*
- Unlimited Reserves – When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, God’s “*divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness*” (2 Peter 1:3).

16 **THE SCOPE OF THE BLESSINGS**

- v. 3: “. . . *has blessed us with every spiritual blessing*”
- Warren Wiersbe: “This can be translated “*all the blessings of the Spirit.*”

- “EVERY spiritual blessing” = All = Total, Whole, of every kind
- God’s saints have access to all the spiritual wealth of heaven.
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17 **COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS**

*Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God has done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.*

18 **PAUL IN PRISON**

- Philippians 1:19 said, “For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.”
- That’s what God is talking about here in Ephesians 1:3: “God . . . has blessed you with every spiritual blessing.”

19 **OUR POSSESSION OF THE BLESSINGS**

- God doesn’t just promise these blessings – We possess them when we believe in Jesus and are born again by the Holy Spirit who indwells us and He becomes the giver, the provider, the bestower of an infinite supply of God’s blessings.

20 **THE STRATOSPHERE OF THE BLESSINGS**

- Stratosphere Defined: (1) The earth’s upper atmosphere from 7-30 miles; (2) Any great height or degree
- The Christian’s Stratosphere, “in the heavenly places”
- The unsaved person is interested primarily in earthly things, because this is where he lives.

21 **THE UNSAVED PERSON**

- Ephesians 2:2 that “you once walked according to the course of this world.”
- Ephesians 2:3: *Among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*
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22 **THE CHRISTIAN’S LIFE IS CENTERED IN HEAVEN**

- Philippians 3:20: *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*

23 **THE CHRISTIAN’S LIFE IS CENTERED IN HEAVEN (2)**

- Colossians 3:1-4: *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

24 **DUAL CITIZENSHIP**

- The earthly and the heavenly
- Physically, he is on the earth in a human body, a citizen of an earthly nation. But spiritually he is a citizen of heaven, seated with Christ in the heavenly sphere (the Christian’s

stratosphere).

- It is his life in the heavenly stratosphere that provides the power and direction for his earthly life and walk.

25 **THE SECRET FOR RECEIVING THE BLESSINGS**

- "*in Christ*" – The Master Key
- "*In Christ*" is so important that in Ephesians 1 alone these words or their equivalent appear 14 times.
- Without Christ a sinner is spiritually dead and morally bankrupt.
- In Christ the Christian is a saint – spiritually alive – an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ.

26 **"IN CHRIST"**

- In Christ the Christian is a saint – spiritually alive – an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ.
- Without Christ a person is, has, and can do nothing.
- "*In Christ*" the Christian is, has, and can do everything.

27 **"IN CHRIST"**

- In Christ: (Ruth Paxson)
 - Denotes our position – where He is, we are.
 - Defines our privileges – What He is, we are.
 - Describes our possessions – What he has, we share.
 - Determines our practice – What He does, we do.
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