

The background of the slide is a textured, parchment-like surface. In the bottom-left corner, there is a faint, sepia-toned aerial photograph of an ancient amphitheater, showing its semi-circular tiers of stone seating and a central arena. The text is centered on the page.

Blessings in Christ

Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesians 1:3-7

“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, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the ...”

“Blessings in Christ”

Ephesians 1:7-13

“riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 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, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the ...”

“Blessings in Christ”

Ephesians 1:13-14

“word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

(ESV)

Where Are the Blessings Found?

The key to understanding this passage
is found in the phrase:

“In Him,” “In Christ,” or “In the Beloved.”

Where are the blessings found?

- Every spiritual blessing in Christ (3)
- He chose us in him (4)
- Holy & blameless before him (4)
- Adopted ... through Jesus Christ (5)
- Grace ... in the Beloved (6)
- In him we have redemption (7)
- Purposed in Christ (9)
- Chosen in him (11)
- Hope in Christ (12)
- Sealed in Christ (13)
- An inheritance in him (13)

What Are the Blessings?

There are seven spiritual blessings available only through Jesus Christ



1. God Has Chosen Us

- *“Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world” (1:4)*

God's Purpose in Choosing

"... that we should be holy and blameless before him."

(1:4, ESV)

2. God Has Destined Us

- “In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ” (1:5, ESV)

Predestined (*proorizō*)

- Literally means, “to set out the boundaries in advance.”

3. God Has Redeemed Us

- “In him we have redemption through his blood”
(1:7, ESV)

Redeem (*apolytrōsis*)

- To release, set free, ransom. To pay the necessary ransom to set free a prisoner of war, a captive, or a debtor who was sold into slavery.

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (ESV)

4. God Has Forgiven Us

- “In him we have ... the forgiveness of our trespasses” (1:7)

Forgiveness (*aphesis*)

- Pardon, cancellation of an obligation. Literally, to let go, or send away.

Trespases (*paratōma*)

- Not the general word for sin.
- This is the only time in the N.T. where this specific word is used in the context of the forgiveness of sins.
- It speaks of deviating from the path of truth and turning from righteousness.

5. God Has Lavished Grace upon Us

- *“According to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us”* (1:8)

Lavished (*perisseuō*)

- Literally, “made overwhelmingly abundant, poured out overflowing, present in abundance with leftovers.”
- Used 6x in the Book of Ephesians.

Romans 5:20

“But where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” (ESV)

Grace, Greater Than All Our Sin

“Grace, grace, God’s grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;

Grace, grace, God’s grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin”

–Julia Johnston

6. God Has Marked Us

“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”

(ESV)

Sealed (*sphragizō*)

- Protected by a seal, marked with a signet, sealed for safety.

7. God Has Guaranteed Our Inheritance

“Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

(1:14)

Guarantee (*arrabōn*)

- First installment, deposit, down payment, pledge.
- A business term expressing the same idea as “earnest money.”

Why Are the Blessings Given?

So God Will Be Praised!



Praise be to God

- *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1:3)
- *“To the praise of his glorious grace ...”* (1:6)
- *“To the praise of his glory”* (1:12)
- *“To the praise of his glory”* (1:14)

Isaiah 43:21

“The people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.” (ESV)

Blessings in Christ

How can we withhold praise from the great God who has blessed us without measure?

