



Becoming a People Who ... Live for a Change "in Him"

Message Notes, January 14, 2019

Ephesians 1:3-14

Within our 2019 theme of "Becoming a People Who..." for the next 4 weeks we will be in a sub-series: ***Live for a Change***. We will be examining the book of Ephesians – Paul’s pastoral letter to the 10-yr-old church at Ephesus that he himself began. Paul is writing his beloved church to express who they are and all the spiritual wealth that is theirs in Christ (Chapters 1-3) and how they are to walk as God’s kingdom people in the world (Chapters 4-6). Who and how; wealth and walk. These two realities are connected by the declaration that the church is God’s redemptive plan for the world (Eph. 2:19-4:16)

We cannot understand HOW to walk in this world if we do not grasp WHO (and how blessed) we are.

“God has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” (1:3)

- Our truest self and life are spiritual. (But we are also physical.)
- The spiritual is the source of the physical.
- Everything physical/visible derives from the spiritual/invisible.
- He **HAS BLESSED** us – past tense. It is already done!
- In Christ, all these blessings are true for us:
 - We are CHOSEN.
 - We are PREDESTINED in love to be ADOPTED.
 - We’ve been freely given GRACE.
 - We are REDEEMED/FORGIVEN
 - LAVISHED w/ grace.
 - We have His REVEALED MYSTERY
 - He UNITES all thing
 - He WORKS OUT EVERYTHING.
 - We have the SEAL of HOLY SPIRIT.
 - We have a GUARANTEED INHERITANCE.

- Our heavenly “bank account” is full beyond measure. The challenge for us is learning how to ACCESS what’s there.

- This Ephesians passage holds some challenging theological concepts. These remind us how God’s ways are often mysterious and elude our understanding.
- Deuteronomy 29:29 expresses that there are both “revealed” and “secret” things of God. We need to rest in regards to the “secret” things and embrace (with joy) those things “revealed.”

- What is REVEALED clearly in this Ephesians passage is that: God has taken all the initiative. He has pursued us. He has made the way. He has rescued us.

- Why? Because he LOVES us and WANTS us. Each one of us is a treasure to Him.
- We are chosen according to the loving purpose of God, by the power of God, for the glory of God.
- Yes, He has pursued us and made the way, BUT He created us free creatures, with a free will (*so that a love relationship might be possible*). We must **respond** to His gracious provision.
- God's will always unfolds in concert with our surrendered will. (And when our will is NOT in concert with His, we miss his grace and blessings – which remain accessible to us if we will but surrender).
- God's loving grace calls us; our part is to say "YES".
- When we believe and say "yes", we receive the following blessings of grace (and many others):
 1. Assurance when we struggle.
 2. Strength when we fail.
 3. Hope in our trials.
 4. Confidence to share the gospel (our hope) with others.

Let us be people who say "yes" to God and walk in the wealth of all our blessings in Christ.