

## **“God’s Incredible Salvation”**

“Ephesians”— Part 2

*Ephesians 1:1-10*

### **Paul’s Greeting to the Ephesians**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:1-2

**Saint:** Every Christian is a saint, set apart from the world around them. They are not taken out of the world, but they do have a new nature and new agenda.

**Faithful:** Living in obedience and unity with God and the church

### **A Declaration of God’s Goodness**

#### **1. Praise for the work of God the Father in our salvation**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One he loves. Ephesians 1:3-6

**Predestine:** To decide beforehand. God's sovereign choice of His people in Christ before the creation of the world

- We praise God because He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.
- We praise God because He chose us in Jesus Christ before the foundations of the world.

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

- We praise God because He adopted us as sons.

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. Romans 8:29-30

#### **2. Praise for the work of God the Son in our salvation.**

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according

to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:7-12

- We praise God because He redeemed us.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

- We praise God because He forgave us.
- We praise God because He lavished His grace upon us.
- We praise God because He made known the mystery of His will to us.

...the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:26-27

- We praise God because He provided an eternal inheritance for us.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept (reserved) in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

### **3. Praise for the work of God the Spirit in our salvation.**

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14

- We praise God because He sealed us by His Holy Spirit.
- We praise God because He guaranteed our inheritance.

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...

Romans 8:15-17

**Application:** When we come to recognize God's grace, the only natural response is to give God praise. Salvation from first to last comes to the lost sinner by grace through faith. It is easy for us to dwell on the gifts of God to the point that we forget the Giver.

**How have the blessings of God been  
meaningful in your own life?**

Before you come to worship next week, review the blessings of God in your life during the past week. Let those blessings prompt your worship. You can only imagine you will find your time in worship far richer, and more meaningful.