



Lesson 2: Positional Blessings (Pt. 1)

Text: Ephesians 1:1-14

Key thought: Unearned blessing flow to all who are "in" Christ.

1. In our text Paul describes in detail the efforts of the Triune God to bless all who are "in" Christ. Before we consider these blessings, share a time when you've been on either the receiving or giving end of an over-the-top and totally undeserved or unwarranted gift or blessing.

A.

2. Paul calls the believers at Ephesus "saints". This is not a position held exclusively by a few, but by everyone who is in Christ. (*Ephesians 1:1; see also Philippians 1:1 & Romans 1:7*) Saints are both morally blameless before God and consecrated to/by God. Why is that so different from the way many Christians view themselves?

A.

What makes our position as saints even possible? (*Ephesians 1:2*)

A.

3. Some of us as kids were called lazy, stupid or some other negative things, while others were spoken to in a positive and encouraging way. Has the view of others ever impact your behavior?

A.

Which of the following two statements is the best way for Christians to describe themselves? Why does it matter? "I am a saint who occasionally sins." -vs.- "I am a sinner saved by grace."

A.

4. As we explore these heavenly blessings let's begin by realizing they are ours because God chose us and chose to impart them to us before He made the world. How does it make you feel knowing God knew you, loved you, and chose you before your birth? (*Ephesians 1:3-4; 1 John 4:10*)

A.

5. Paul says that all who are "in" Christ are positionally holy and blameless, have been adopted, and are accepted in the Beloved, who is Jesus Christ. (*Ephesians 1:4-6*) Which one of these blessings is hardest for you to either grasp or believe is true? Why?

A.

Which one moves you the most? Why?

A.

6. Our blessings also include redemption and forgiveness of sins. Christ freed us from slavery to sin, the lies and deception of the devil, and the wages of sin (eternal destruction) by dying in our place on a bloody cross. (*Ephesians 1:7-8*) How are these truths emphasized in the following scriptures?

- Matthew 20:28

A.

- Colossians 1:13-14

A.

- 1 Peter 1:18-19

A.

7. Some believe Jesus was willing to pay a steep price as a reflection of our worth, while others believe Jesus had to pay such a steep price because of the depths and wickedness of our sin. Which do you believe is true? Could it be both?

A.

8. Paul says God, as an act of His will, has provided these to us "to the praise of the glory of His grace" (vs. 6). That is, He deserves our praise and expressions of gratitude. How can we accomplish these things?

A.