



Sermon Notes: June 7, 2015

Chosen

1 of 14 from the teaching series "The Messiah's Community"

Ephesians 1:11-10 • Pastor Paul Bradford

Ephesians 1:1-10

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 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 for adoption to sonship 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. 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, 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 reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

"God's holy people"

- Some translations use the word "saints"
- The Bible doesn't see Christ followers as sinners, but as holy

"in Christ Jesus"

- Christ's very life is in us, and we dwell in him
- This isn't just imagery, it's a reality in the unseen spiritual realm

"grace"

- God's riches at Christ's expense

"peace"

- Shalom - flourishing in all dimensions of life
- Shalom is also translated as completeness, soundness, welfare, peace, safety, health, prosperity, tranquility, contentment, friendship, social/political peace

"blessed us"

- In the Old Testament, to be blessed by God often referred to outward or material possessions, prosperity, or power
- In the New Testament, the focus is on the greater blessings that come to us through the Holy Spirit.

"in the heavenly realms...in Christ"

- We are in the heavenly places because we are in Christ
- We who are born again are alive in the realm of heaven
- In that spiritual realm, all these blessings already exist and are already ours. *Colossians 3:1*

"every spiritual blessing"

- He chose us
- He is making us holy and blameless in his sight
- He has adopted us as his sons
- Through Christ he has redeemed us and forgiven us
- He has given us all wisdom and understanding
- He has revealed to us his eternal plan

"he chose us"

- Who?
 - All people - anyone who calls on the name of the Lord. *1 Timothy 2:1-4, Romans 10:10-13*
- Why?
 - To be holy & blameless before him
 - Grace always precedes holiness
- How?
 - Adoption - not as servants, or an army, or as friends, but as children

How is God's adoption of us just like human adoption?

- My adoption was an unconditional choice of love by my heavenly Father.
- I was not a son, but now I've legally become a son, with full rights of a son.
- I receive all the benefits of a son - home, security, provision, name, and standing.
- *Romans 8:17 - Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

How is God's adoption of us different from human adoption?

- When God adopts me, I truly become his offspring. I am born of his Spirit.

Our Response

I am secure in the Father's loving grip and I can expect his grace every day!

- *Romans 5:10: For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*
- *Romans 8:32: He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A #26

Q: What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth"?

A: I believe that the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is my God and Father because of Christ his Son. I trust him so much that I do not doubt he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and he will turn to my good whatever adversity he allows to come my way in this sorrowful world. He is able to do this because he is almighty God; he desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.