

## Eph. 1:7-12 "In Him"

**For the Children:** A wealthy stranger decides to help you, even though you have never met him. He sends his right-hand man to tell you about the help he is going to give you. He is going to pay for your education, all your medical needs, your weekly living costs. He is going to take care of your debts. He is going to give you a really good job. The only way to learn of all he is doing for you, is to talk to the representative who has been sent to you. The only way to receive the help is through that right-hand man. The only way you can express your gratitude is through your dealings with this man. All God's blessings are obtained and explained in, and through, the Lord Jesus Christ. To know God, to receive His blessings and to show your gratitude to Him, you must believe in the Lord Jesus. **Questions:** What blessings do we have in Christ? How does this passage show the greatness of the blessings we have in Christ? How can we be sure that we will receive these blessings in Him?

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### Introduction:

#### First Point: Redemption in Him

- 1) The Blessing of Redemption: The most well-known blessing we have in Christ is "redemption" – deliverance by the paying of a ransom-price. We have been delivered from the wrath of God. The result is "forgiveness of our trespasses": God removes them from His sight. See Ps. 103.
- 2) In and Through Him: This takes place "through His blood," by Christ's sacrifice on the cross. It is accessed by faith, which unites us with Christ.
- 3) According to His Grace: The magnitude of this blessing is seen in the word "riches"; the word "grace," which reminds us that it is undeserved; the word "lavished," which refers to something sumptuously rich;" and the fact that this bestowal is "according to" the measure of God's infinite grace.

#### Second Point: Knowledge of God in Him

- 1) The Mystery Made Known: We are also blessed by being brought to know God in Christ. In Him and His Word, we come to know the Person of God, His works, His plans for this world, His wisdom, His blessings. These are all mysteries which we would otherwise never know.
- 2) According to God's Purpose; It is the Father's purpose that we should know such things. It has been predestined and therefore it must take place. Even in the part of ch. 1 that focuses on Christ, the will of the Father is tied in. Ch. 1 brings in God's eternal will in many ways – His "will," "intention," "purpose," "predestination" and "counsel." God's will, not man's, is the ultimate cause of our blessing.
- 3) A Suitable Administration: The goal of this bestowal of knowledge is that we should know about God's "administration suitable to the fullness of the times" – how God manages this present dispensation, which began when Christ came in the fullness of time and will be consummated when He returns. The goal of sending His Son is that all things in the universe will be brought in subjection to Christ. Our knowledge of these things has a scope that goes way beyond our small lives and their issues!

#### Third Point: Inheritance in Him

- 1) A Predestined Heritage: The end of the administration will involve an inheritance (vss. 11-12). This may mean that we will come into the inheritance we have already obtained in principle, or that God has made *us His* inheritance. See Dt. 32:9 and Ps. 33:12. This must take place because it, too, is predestined by God, once-and-for-all.
- 2) For the Sake of His Glory: In addition to the Lord's desire to bless His people, there is an over-arching Divine purpose: that God will be glorified more and more, as those who were the first to hope in the Gospel (Jewish believers), spread the Gospel through the whole world. God is glorified when sinners learn of His Person and works, blessings, grace, majesty and plans – as revealed and obtained "in Christ" – and praise Him for these things.

### Conclusion: