

## FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP of Fairfield Glade

Pastor Dave Evangelista ~ January 3, 2010 ~ Ephesians 1:3-14

### “Blessed in Spiritual Realms”

Ephesians 1:3-14. This portion of God’s Word is a marvelous and comprehensive statement of divine grace. It is also a progressive discovery of its riches. Paul’s view is from a divine standpoint. Spiritual riches will mean much to us when we face eternity. If we were to reverse the order of the verses from 13 to 4 we will learn truths that relate to Christian experiences. Look at the **first experience** in verse 13: “*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth.*” The Ephesians heard the Truth! Millions have never heard the Truth of God! Ephesus was a city given over to idolatry. What they heard was able to reconcile them to God! All their idolatry could never have brought this about!

**Experience number two** from vs. 13: “*...the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,*” It is not enough to just hear! There must be personal appropriation—such as a commitment of the heart and affections. “*Having believed*” means the Ephesians took advantage of the offer of God’s free gift!

**Experience number three:** Again, note vs. 13c “*Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.*” The Holy Spirit of promise has been given as a down payment in our hearts—we are claimed by Him and stamped with His signature!

See vs. 7: “*In Him we have redemption through His blood the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.*”

**Experience number four:** We were not sealed that we might have redemption...but because we have been redeemed! *Titus 2:14* “*He gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity.*” He was the “Lamb” slain from before the foundation of the world! Redemption is therefore older than creation, and will be the theme of the final song. See *Revelation 5:9* “*And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men*

*for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.*”

**Experience number five:** bought by His precious blood, and forgiven according to the infinite riches of almighty grace He has loved our souls out of the pit and called us “*Sons of God*”.

**Experience number six:** from verse five: “*...He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will.*” Accepted in spite of all our ignorance, weakness, failure and conscious helplessness! As the Father accepted the Son when He raised Him from the dead...so in love and tenderness He accepts us on Christ’s merits!

**Experience number seven** from verse 11: “*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.*” See also *Romans 8:17*. Christ is God’s only begotten Son and heir!

The Church is the Bride of Christ and the redeemed Bride shall share the glory and honor of the Bridegroom in that day when the marriage of the Lamb is come.”

**Experience number eight** from verse five of our text reads: “*...He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will...*” We discover here that all our Christian experiences were according to the predetermination of God’s purpose and pleasure of His will. God predestined us according to His knowledge.

**Experience number nine** from verse four proves truth: “*For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.*” God gave Christ a people for His honor and glory long before this world was created. We were chosen because God knew we would believe!

In conclusion, the Christ who loved the church before it was born and gave Himself for it, will someday present it to Himself a glorious church without spot or wrinkle!

(Please turn page over)

**What can we take away with us today?** Oh my friends—so much! Check out these promises, past, present and future:

- We are *included* in Christ when we heard the Word of Truth—Ephesians 1:13;
- We have *received the seal / mark* of the promised Holy Spirit—Eph. 1:13c;
- We have been *redeemed!* Eph. 1:7; Titus 2:14;
- We have been *bought* by His precious blood; *forgiven* according to the infinite riches of Almighty Grace; He has loved our souls out of the ‘pit’ and called us “*Sons of God!*”!
- He has *predestined us to be adopted* as His sons through Jesus Christ because He wanted to and took pleasure in His will; He predestined us *according to His will.* Eph. 1:5; Romans 8:17;
- We were *chosen before the creation of the world* to be holy and blameless in His sight;
- Christ, who loved the church before it was born and gave Himself for it, will someday *present it to Himself* a glorious church without spot or wrinkle!

*What marvelous truths and promises to claim to start off the New Year, 2010! We are truly a blessed people in the spiritual realms!*





