

**EPHESIANS 1:2-3—THE DIVINE BLESSING
WINTER SESSION # 2—JANUARY 11, 2010**

People are so concerned about themselves. They are so consumed with their purpose, self-worth, and acceptance. Man looks for the eternal answers to life's big questions by looking to themselves. They look out for # 1. They try to find meaning in their identity, heritage, and ethnic roots. Many try to find their fulfillment through their works righteousness. They are always looking for praise from others. This kind of satisfaction is never found. They then become depressed, anxious and guilty.

The only way one can really find true satisfaction and contentment is through Christ. Without Him there is no meaning nor purpose.

One who is joined to Christ must know and understand the position he is in. We have seen who we are and what we are.

Out of grace and in God's sovereignty, He chose each one of us to belong to Him. It wasn't because we were worthy but because of God's will to choose us. This is an incomprehensible truth for finite minds, but it is all throughout scripture. Right here in this text is a supreme example, one of the highest and profoundest truths of our faith with vital importance. Paul gets into the very depths of the profoundest truth and doctrine that can be found.

Where we are at today is to whet our appetites in giving us the idea of what is developed in the main body of work.

This is glorious and staggering.

1. THE DUAL BLESSINGS OF BELIEVERS 1:2

No two words are more important in the faith than grace and peace.

A. GRACE

Charis—God's kindness toward those who are undeserving of His favor, entirely unworthy.

Grace is the beginning of our faith, the fountain, spring, the source

Grace is the source of everything in the Christian life.

It is condescending love, love come down to us. It is one of the most beautiful words in the human language.

All the human race could expect in view of its sin, was the righteous wrath of a holy God, eternal banishment from the presence of God.

But instead, He stepped down from His judgment seat and took upon Himself at the cross, the guilt and penalty of human sin, thus satisfying His justice and making possible the bestowal of His mercy. He did this for His enemies. That is grace. That is not the philosophy of man but from the heart of God. There is no room for good works at all.

Why do we need grace?

1. At enmity with God

Man hates God. He is opposed to God.

2. At enmity with ourselves

He fights a war within himself. he is in a state of internal struggle.

He has a conscience and when he wants to do certain things, something inside tells him it is wrong to do.

B. PEACE

If grace is the fountain, then peace is the stream. Because we have grace

From God we have peace with God and the peace of God that surpasses all understanding.

Natural man knows nothing of real peace. He is in a state of disunity.

Eirene- to join—" a state of untroubled, undisturbed well-being"

It is a union, a union after separation. A joining together after a disjointing.

It is a reconciliation. 2 Cor 5:18 he brought us in to a state of union with Himself. We didn't reconcile.

The end of strife

Peace is the ending of our faith as grace is the beginning of our faith.

1. Peace with God --Romans 5:1

2. Peace with self

3. Peace with others-Matthew 5:44

4. Peace of God-----Philippians 4:7

2. THE DUAL SOURCE OF BLESSINGS 1:2

A. OUR FATHER

On what basis does these things happen to us? Grace comes from our Father.

This changes our whole attitude about God. He is not just a terrible law Giver, He is my Father.

We are children of God---The highest honor of all, the greatest gift of God's grace to us.

B. LORD JESUS CHRIST

The God-man who gives us His nature

He is what makes Christianity.

He is Lord and God who is coeternal.

What we lack is understanding and knowledge. Our chief need is for eyes to be opened. We need to understand our privileges of our high calling.

People die for the lack of knowledge. Hosea 4:6 Understanding doctrine leads to praise

3. THE COVENANT BLESSINGS FROM ETERNITY PAST—1:3

The record of redemptive history is that of God reaching down and drawing to Himself those whom He has chosen to save. Paul gives a glimpse of eternity past. He lets us in on how God planned to save us, long before we were born and even before the earth was created.

This is how we became what we are.

A. THE BLESSED ONE---GOD

Eulogeo-a declaration of a person's goodness. Goodness is God's nature.

1. A **true realization** of the nature of salvation leads to **praise**

Adoration, praise, and thanksgiving (The primary purpose of worship) Nothing is more appropriate than to bless God for His great goodness. This is to be the supreme thing in our life.

Genesis 14:20, Revelation 5:13

The worlds is unhappy and miserable and curses and complains. Christians praise and give thanks to God. It is the chief object of all public acts of worship.

2. God is to be praised—The Trinity

Because of His attribute of Blessedness

B. THE BLESSER---GOD

He is the supreme blesser who bestows goodness.

The way salvation was planned, the way in which He brought it about
The Covenant of Grace---the contract between the Triune God

There was a great eternal council between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God drew up a great covenant of grace or redemption. There was a plan made regarding the Fall. The Son contracted with the Father that He would do certain things for Him as the Father would do certain things for the Son. He would grant forgiveness, reconciliation, restoration, a new life, and a new nature to all who belonged to Jesus Christ.. The Son was to come to earth and take human nature and bear the sin for the ones who God chose. This was the great covenant. There were arrangements subsidiary made to Noah, Abraham, and Moses and David, all based on the one main covenant. God took an oath, signed, committed Himself. Everything is in Christ as He is our representative, Mediator, and Guarantor of the covenant.

C. THE BLESSED ONES—BELIEVERS

Galatians 3:9

D. THE BLESSINGS—EVERYTHING SPIRITUAL

Pneumatikos- refers to the work of the Holy Spirit, the source of blessing
Romans 5:5, John 14:27, 15:11, Col 2:10, Philippians 1:19

They are mediated to us from God through Christ via the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit grants us grace.

E. THE LOCATION OF BLESSINGS—HEAVENLY PLACES

Col 3:1, Phil 3:20 Col 2:3

There is the here and the now. Set your affections on the things above.

We have a foretaste of something to come.

F. THE BLESSING AGENT—JESUS CHRIST 1 Cor 6:17, Rom 15:5-7