

# Bless God! For He Has Blessed You!

## **Ephesians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. – Ephesians 1:3-14

## **Bless the LORD because He Has Given You Every Spiritual Blessing in Christ!**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!* – Psalm 103:1

“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me...” – Matthew 15:8.

- 1. God chose us before the foundation of the world**
- 2. God made and is making us holy and blameless**
- 3. God predestined us for adoption**

**“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children” (Romans 8:15-16).**

“God didn’t choose to be our *foster* parent. We don’t get kicked out of the family because of our behavior. We don’t have to worry day to day whether or not we are good enough to be part of the family. In his infinite kindness, God made us a

permanent part of his family...Nothing can undo the legal procedure that binds me to Christ. He died to redeem me. He signed the adoption papers, so to speak, with his blood. Nothing can cancel the work he did for me. I am free from the fear of falling away. Hallelujah!"<sup>1</sup>

#### 4. God redeemed us through Jesus

#### 5. God gave us insight into his eternal plan

...making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. – Ephesians 1:9-10

Ladies and gents, this is the moment you've waited for (woah)  
 Been searching in the dark, your sweat soaking through the floor (woah)  
 And buried in your bones there's an ache that you can't ignore  
 Taking your breath, stealing your mind  
 And all that fade's is left behind

Don't fight it, it's coming for you, running at ya  
 It's only this moment, don't care what comes after  
 Your fever dream, can't you see it getting closer  
 Just surrender 'cause you feel the feeling taking over  
 It's fire, it's freedom, it's flooding open  
 It's a preacher in the pulpit and you'll find devotion  
 There's something breaking at the brick of every wall it's holding I'll let you know  
 So tell me do you wanna go?

Oh, this is the greatest show  
 It's everything you ever want  
 It's everything you ever need  
 And it's here right in front of you  
 This is where you wanna be (this is where you wanna be)  
 It's everything you ever want  
 It's everything you ever need  
 And it's here right in front of you  
 This is where you wanna be  
 This is where you wanna be

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Peterson, Adopted by God, 76-78

## The Greatest Showman

### 6. God sealed us in the Holy Spirit

“Imagine the most treasured experiences of the Holy Spirit we have ever had and then realize they are only a foretaste, the tip on the tongue on the spoon, of what is to come. Remember the release in coming to Christ and knowing you were forgiven? Remember that time when in worship you were smitten with awe? Remember that time you followed the Spirit’s leading and were wonderfully used? Remember the satisfaction of finding the fruits of the Spirit surprising you with goodness where you once responded wickedly? Think of all this and then multiply it a millionfold. Here on earth we have experienced the first dollar of a million celestial dollars – the earnest. “No eye has seen, nor ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him’ but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-10).” What will the first five minutes be like when we come into the fullness of our inheritance? The first fifteen minutes? The first hour? The first day – week – month – year – thousand years?”<sup>2</sup>

**Bless God, For He Has Blessed You!**

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<sup>2</sup> R. Kent Hughes