

**Giving Thanks for the Trinity's
Past, Present, and Future Salvation
Thanksgiving 2016 | Ephesians 1:3-14
Southern Hills Baptist Church
November 20, 2016**

Introduction: Thanksgiving is upon us so we wanted to take time to consider a few of the countless reasons why we should be thankful as Christians. We will turn to Ephesians 1:3-14, the longest sentence in the Bible, where Paul erupts in praise over the saving work of our Triune God. As we consider these theologically rich verses let your hearts rejoice over the lavish grace you have been shown in Jesus.

Giving Thanks For God The Father's Past Salvific Work (vs. 3-6)

Thankful for the God Who Blessed Us (vs 3)

- **Every Spiritual Blessing** – When you placed your faith in Jesus, God bestowed upon you every spiritual blessing. Not many, not countless, not most, ALL!
- **Give Thanks!** There are many things in this life that you want, but don't have, know this, everything you need to stand before God the Father, everything you need to find eternal joy and life, everything you need to find meaning and purpose in this life, all of it has been given to you in Christ. You lack nothing!

Thankful for the God Who Chose Us (vs. 4)

- **Chosen Before Time** – God chose you to be His before time itself. This makes some uncomfortable, but know had God not chosen you, you most certainly wouldn't have chosen Him! (Rom 8:7-8; 3:10-11)
- **Give Thanks!** Consider God's incredible love for you.
 - **Pursued** – He pursued you before you could have even considered pursuing Him.
 - **Loved** – He also has loved you from eternity past. You have been loved longer than the earth has been around. His love for you is not a generic, "God loves humanity" kind of love either. He loves you specifically and intimately.
 - **Secure** – This should also give us great security in our salvation. The security of your salvation doesn't rest on a choice you made, but on a choice God made. God doesn't make mistakes.

Thankful for the God Who Predestined Us (vs. 5)

- **Predestined to be God's Child** – In eternity past God determined your destiny. Those who have put their faith in Jesus were to be His children! He has always had a plan for you!
- **Give Thanks!** Consider what it means to be a child of God... you are under the mighty protection of the One who keeps our world spinning and sun burning. You are tenderly loved by the Maker of all things. You are graciously provided for by the One who owns all things.

Giving Thanks For Jesus' Present Salvific Work (vs. 7-12)

Thankful for Redemption in Jesus (vs. 7-10)

- **Redeemed** – Sin is a cruel task master that lulls people to sleep while taking them on a death march. Jesus paid a ransom price to liberate you from the captivity and bondage of sin! Sweet redemption!
- **Give Thanks!** What kind of love does Jesus have for His church? He paid a ransom price of His own life for enemy rebels. If Jesus would make this kind of sacrifice for us as enemies, would He ever hold back now that we are children of God (Rom 8:32)? No!

Thankful for an Eternal Inheritance in Jesus (vs. 11-12)

- **Obtained an Inheritance** – Paul is so sure that we will receive this inheritance that he speaks of a future event in the past tense, as if it is a done deal. This inheritance is God Himself who brings the fullness of joy and forever pleasure that will never lose their soul-thrilling delight (Phil 3:14; Psa 16:11; 1 Pet 1:3-4). Sign me up!
- **Give Thanks!** As Christians we should never find ourselves without hope. Life may feel as if it is collapsing around us as we live in this sin-cursed world, but we can't forget that there is something infinitely wonderful, awe-inspiringly beautiful, totally satisfying, and intensely soul-thrilling ahead of us in Christ.

Giving Thanks For The Spirit's Future Salvific Work (vs. 13-14)

Thankful to be Secure in the Spirit (vs. 13-14)

- **Sealed and Guaranteed** – The Spirit's seal and guarantee are provided that we may have rock-solid assurance of God's saving promises. God's reputation is on the line in our salvation. He won't fail.
- **Give Thanks!** When the stress of life mounts and life keeps taking unexpected turns and shifting on you know that your eternity is unshakably secure and immovable.