



What Jesus Means to Me

Part 4 – Giving Thanks for the Blessings in Christ



Like previous Pauline letters, the first part of Ephesians is doctrinal. In this case, the doctrinal section is a thanksgiving expressed in the language of worship and prayer.



An Act of Praise – Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesians 1:3

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every _____ in Christ”

Ephesians 1:4-14

4For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-6to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. 9And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment-to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. 11In 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, 12in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-to the praise of his glory.

Thanksgiving and Prayer – Ephesians 1:15-19

15For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19and his incomparably great power for us who believe...”

Paul's response as a model to us today:

- He takes _____
- He expresses _____ for them
- He _____ for them asking God for the spirit of wisdom and revelation.

Application

-How to S.P.O.T Thankful People

Thankful people S _____ (Psalm 92:1, 2)

Thankful people P _____ (John 17:24)

Thankful people O _____ (Romans 6:17)

Thankful people T _____ (Acts 3:9, 10)

