

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Text: Eph. 1:3-7

Lord's Day 11 - Read

Title: **Spiritual Blessings in Christ**

I. We are chosen

II. We are adopted

III. We are accepted

IV. We are redeemed

- Stanley William McKenna Walker was the son of a wealthy British shipbuilder.
- At age 50, he was the heir to a \$4 million estate in England. But, this man lived on the street with Chicago's poor people.
- For many years, he barely survived by eating leftover garbage and sleeping in cheap, run down hotels.
- When his millionaire father died, the authorities searched throughout the saloons and streets of Chicago, trying to find him so they could inform him of his new inheritance 遗产.
- When they finally located him, they discovered that he had just died the night before in the doorway of a Chicago rescue mission.
- How sad that Stanley Walker missed out on a lifetime of all the riches that were rightfully his.
- He could have lived as a king but instead he lived and died in poverty.
- What is more tragic is that Stanley Walker is a picture of the way many Christians unnecessarily live and die as spiritual poor people, struggling to survive, in bondage to sin, all because they don't know about all the spiritual wealth that is available to them in Jesus Christ.

Paul highlights in Eph. 1:3-7 and to the end of the chapter - the blessings that believers possess

- Declares the spiritual riches we have in Jesus Christ
- We have been chosen by the Lord
- Adopted into God's royal family
- Redeemed by precious blood because nothing else could do the job

We have an inheritance that can by no means fail or fade away

Let us never live like spiritual beggars 属灵乞丐 - let us say with Paul...

*Ephesians 1:3-3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

**Q. Why is the Son of God called Jesus, that is, Saviour?**

**A. Because he saves us from all our sins, 1 and because salvation is not to be sought or found in anyone else. 2**

- When we see these truths we should be thankful for our knowledge of them - many do not see Jesus as Saviour and they are lost

May the Spirit come and lead us into His truth because then doctrine becomes very practical for us

Dr. Barrett said - Right thinking leads to Right living

Today let us look at the spiritual blessing we have because as Christians we are in Christ

**I. We are chosen (Eph. 1:4).**

***Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,***

Here, we deal with the doctrine of *election* 拣选 a doctrine that has confused some people.

That salvation begins with God, and not with man, all Christians must agree.

*"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (John 15:16).*

The lost sinner, left to himself, does not seek God ([Rom. 3:10-11](#));

Election is...

**a. Based on God's sovereign 主权 will.**

- Decrees of God / He is actively working & directing affairs

- SC - The Decrees of God are, His Eternal Purpose, According to the Counsel of His Will, Whereby, for His Own Glory, He Hath Foreordained Whatsoever Comes to Pass.

- Election = God's sovereign choosing a people = enter relationship

-Jesus called them "my sheep" church/ elect/ children of God/ peculiar people

### III. Israel chosen by sovereign choice/ redeemed from bondage

*Deuteronomy 7:6-8* <sup>6</sup> "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; <sup>8</sup> "but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Election is...

#### **b. Unconditional in man.**

- Election exclusively based God's good pleasure/express - grace
- Election not depend on foreseen faith or good works
- God originates faith and good works = fruit of His grace
- Man passive > His privilege to be chosen by God > He desires it

### III. God's relationship with Jacob and Esau = example of unconditional election

*Romans 9:11* (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),  
*Romans 9:13-15* <sup>13</sup> As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated." <sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! <sup>15</sup> For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."

Also,

*2 Timothy 1:9* who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

### BELGIC CONFESSION ARTICLE 16 - Eternal Election

**We believe that all the posterity of Adam being thus fallen into perdition and ruin by the sin of our first parents, God then did manifest Himself such as He is; that is to say, merciful and just: merciful, since He delivers and preserves from this perdition all whom He in His eternal and unchangeable counsel of mere goodness has elected in Christ Jesus our Lord, without any respect to their works; just, in leaving others in the fall and perdition wherein they have involved**

**themselves.** 我们相信当所有的后裔, 既如此由于我们始祖的犯罪, 堕落在败坏与灭亡中, 神就彰显他的恩慈与公义, 因他本是如此. 在恩慈方面说, 他拯救并保守他们, 是按着不变旨意, 并不在乎他们的行为, 在主耶稣基督里所拣选的人脱离死亡; 在公义方面说, 把别的人留在自取的堕落与灭亡中。

First spiritual blessing - By faith we are elected by God - thus, we can see Christ as our saviour

## **II. We are adopted ([Eph. 1:5](#)).**

*Ephesians 1:5* having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

- Here, deal with another word *predestination* 预定  
This word refers *primarily* to what God does for saved people.

- The word simply means - *Decide from the beginning or beforehand, predestine; set apart from the beginning or beforehand*

Election seems to refer to *people*, while predestination refers to *purposes*.

The events connected with the crucifixion of Christ were predestined ([Acts 4:25-28](#)).

**God has predestined our adoption ([Eph. 1:5](#)), and our conformity to Christ ([Rom. 8:29-30](#)), as well as our future inheritance ([Eph. 1:11](#)).**

*Romans 8:29-30* <sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

*Adoption* uì`oqesi,a, aj f. to formally and legally declare that someone who is not one's own child is henceforth to be treated and cared for as one's own child, including complete rights of inheritance - 'to adopt, adoption.' avnaire,omai:

*Romans 8:16-17* <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

*Ephesians 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,*

### **SC Q. 34. What is adoption?**

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, a whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God.

Second blessing - God made you His child - do not take it for granted!!

### **III. We are accepted (Eph. 1:6).**

*Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.*

We cannot make ourselves acceptable to God; but He, by His grace, makes us accepted in Christ.

Our eternal position will never change.

Accept in the beloved - essentially fully accepted to God through Christ

God accepts His Son / accepts His work / accepts His sacrifice

Accepts His blood / thus must accept who? You Christian because you are in Christ

### **30. Q. Do those who seek their salvation or well-being in saints, in themselves, or anywhere else, also believe in the only Saviour Jesus?**

**A. No. Though they boast of him in words, they in fact deny the only Saviour Jesus. For one of two things must be true: either Jesus is not a complete Saviour, or those who by true faith accept this Saviour must find in him all that is necessary for their salvation.**

Are we accepted to God by anyone other than Christ?

Cults - Jehovah Witnesses / Mormons / others = Christ not enough and must have works righteousness

I am accepted in the beloved - without my works - by faith that shows in my works

### **14005. Rejected On Earth, Accepted In Heaven**

G. Campbell Morgan was one of a hundred and fifty young men who sought entrance into the Wesleyan ministry in 1888.

He had passed his written exam but faced the test of giving a trial sermon in front of a panel. When the results were released, Morgan's name was among those who were rejected.

He wired his father with one word: "Rejected."

Then he sat down and wrote in his diary: "Very dark. Everything seems still. He knoweth best."

But the reply to his wire was quick to arrive.

It read, "Rejected on earth, accepted in heaven. Dad."

As G. Campbell Morgan went on to prove, rejection on earth is often of little consequence. And as his father wisely recognized, rejection on earth is of no consequence in heaven.

### **IV. We are redeemed (Eph. 1:7a).**

*Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*

To *redeem* means "to purchase and set free by paying a price."

*"There were 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire, and often they were bought and sold like pieces of furniture. But a man could purchase a slave and set him free, and this is what Jesus did for us."*

The price was His own blood ([1 Peter 1:18ff](#)).

*1 Peter 1:18-19* <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

This means that we are free from the Law ([Gal. 5:1](#)), free from slavery to sin ([Rom. 6](#)), as well as free from the power of Satan and the world ([Gal. 1:4](#); [Col. 1:13-14](#)).

If we were slaves, we would be poor, but because we are sons, we are rich!

***“If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology 科技 God would have sent a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent an economist. But, our greatest need was forgiveness and redemption, and, therefore, God sent a Savior!”***

*Galatians 3:13-14* <sup>13</sup> *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),* <sup>14</sup> *that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

May we never live like Stanley Walker – miss out with God

- How sad that Stanley Walker missed out on a lifetime of all the riches that were rightfully his.
- Don't miss out on the spiritual riches that are rightfully yours in Christ!

### **Paul tells us the blessings that we possess**

- Declares the spiritual riches we have in Jesus Christ
- We have been chosen by the Lord
- Adopted and made heirs and joint-heirs with Christ
- Redeemed by precious blood / made pure and spotless /accepted

We have an inheritance that is greater than anything

Let us never live like spiritual poor people – Let us say as Paul said in vs. 3

*Ephesians 1:3* <sup>3</sup> *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

**Q. Why is the Son of God called *Jesus*, that is, Saviour?**

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