

Wednesday, January 04, 2012

8:05 AM

## The Blessings of Redemption

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

Paul was an apostle because ABBA chose him. Paul did not originate the choosing, God did.

To the saints who are at Ephesus and *who are* faithful in Christ Jesus:

Paul is penning a letter from God to the saints, people who know God who are at Ephesus – to all the saints, particularly to those who are faithful. Would that letter be coming to me as a faithful saint if I lived in Ephesus at the time? Is that letter coming to me in Satsuma, Alabama today? Am I faithful in Christ Jesus? Are you?

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A reminder that we are in grace and because we are we have peace from God who is the Father of Jesus; Jesus while on earth as the God-Man had a family relationship with God. Think about it. JESUS the human here on the planet had a Father/Son relationship with God so He could model family relations for us so we could follow the model. Am I? Are you?

3 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,

I am blessed. Say it to myself again and again. Say it to yourself, again and again. You are blessed. Do you feel it? Perhaps believing it comes before feeling it. Perhaps when we don't feel blessed it is because we have forgotten, we have forgot to believe we are blessed.

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

He chose for me to be holy and blameless before He created the world – He chose for me to be holy and blameless in JESUS. How long would I need to meditate on it to really believe it and feel it? How long would you? And will I? Will you?

5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

Kind intention. That feels good to read.

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

His grace is FREE to me. Free to me IN Jesus. But only in Jesus. Grace is free only in Jesus, for every soul. Just in Jesus. No other way. This must get a hold on me so I will live differently.

**7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

I am redeemed. I am redeemed! I am forgiven. I am forgiven! Are you?

**8** which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

Would you look at that?! In wisdom and insight He made this grace available to us. He was wise, He was smart, He was thinking ahead to make this grace available to us AND to reveal it to us so we could accept. He was right and smart to save me. That feels humbling, far from arrogance as it might sound – humbling, wonderfully humbling!! He did not make a mistake with me. Oh my! Thank You, ABBA. Thank You!

**9** He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

More kind intention.

**10** with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him

Everything is summed up in JESUS. All of God and His kind intentions, His wisdom, His rightness, all of Him is summed up in Him. And given to us? That's too big for me today. Is it for you?

**11** also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

I have an inheritance! You have an inheritance! You know someone must die for another to receive an inheritance, don't you? And HE did. And we do.

**12** to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

I am, you are, for His glory. That's what this is about.

**13** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

I am sealed. I am safe. Sealed! It's a done deal; not to be undone!!

**14** who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

The Holy Spirit is MINE! He is my earnest of MY inheritance! He is overseeing this deal and it will not fail; it will be completed. I will receive my FULL inheritance. You will too if the Holy Spirit is yours.

**15** For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and your love for all the saints,

**16** do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers;

So important that I pray for you. So important that you pray for me. It's just something we must do.

**17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

If we don't pray we don't receive. And we cannot survive this hostile planet without His wisdom, without His revelation of Himself to us. What if I don't pray for you? What if you don't pray for me? What will the outcome of lack of praying be? Am I sobered by that? Are you?

**18** *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

What am I supposed to pray for you? What are you supposed to pray for me? That the eyes of my heart will be enlightened? What does that mean? The eyes are for seeing, the heart is for circulating life through me. I need to SEE the LIFE of CHRIST in me. So do you. And I need to see the Life of Christ in you. I need to pray for that. You need to pray for that. It is the only way for us to KNOW the hope He has called us to. It is the way for me, for you, to experience the riches, the inheritance He has given us. So am I praying this? Are you?

**19** and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

If we don't pray; if I don't pray for you and you don't pray for me, will we not know, will we not experience His great power available to us? That is what He said, didn't He? That is His plan; that is His way, right? And remember He is wise and kind – smart, smart to do it this way! Isn't that what it says? What would thinking about this do in me? What would it do in you?

**20** which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

It's all wrapped up in JESUS. The ALIVE JESUS! Not a Jesus laid in a tomb DEAD! Not a Jesus with no life pumping blood, no eyes seeing, no ears hearing, not a DEAD Jesus. Not Graveyard dead! No not that Jesus. But the raised from the dead JESUS! The Jesus who is ALIVE! Alive and seated in Power, total power, full command, all authority over the entire universe. That Jesus! That's the Jesus who is our inheritance. That's the Jesus who the Holy Spirit is within us. This knowledge, this fact, needs to take hold of me, take root in me. Do you see that too?

**21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Jesus is above ALL! He is the all in all. I'm not deeply enough experiencing this Jesus. Are you? Why am I not? Why are you not?

**22** And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

**23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

God the Father has placed Jesus in charge! In charge of ALL!! How foolish, stupid are we to refuse to submit to His Charge? How stupid is it for us to not pray to KNOW Him in His fullness? How selfish is it for me to not pray for you to KNOW Him in His fullness? And by the same token how selfish is it of you to pray not for me to KNOW Him in His fullness?

That's it. For today that is what I see in Ephesians 1.