



# 1. What's In Your Treasure Chest?"

The treasure we have in Jesus Christ is more powerful and effective than anything we could substitute for Him.

## Ephesus & its Treasure Chest

- PROMINENT due to location, commerce, population
- OBSESSED with the supernatural, especially the power of evil spirits, magical names, and superhero Artemis. They tried **anything** that would defeat the “enemy” and guarantee a “successful” life.

## The American Treasure Chest

- Our culture tries **anything** that will satisfy our spiritual hunger and guarantee “successful” living.

## God's Answer for them and for us — Jesus Christ

- Paul's time in Ephesus – *Acts 19:8-19*



- Our identity comes from our Power Source — *Eph 1:19-21; 2:6*

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*God's **extraordinary** miracles = “to hit the mark like one who is throwing a javelin or arrow”; targeting one's need for spiritual power. He knows how to target your need as well.*

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*What are you relying upon for spiritual power and “successful” living? Are you willing to get rid of any substitutes and cling to your treasure in Jesus Christ alone?*



## 2. Lavished with Jewels

Ephesians 1:3-14

### Our Spiritual Blessing Package IN CHRIST

- Who you are in is a reference to your family relationship, origin, inheritance, nature and destiny. The moment you believed in Christ, God plucked you out of the mainstream of sinners and placed you in Christ—100%. In that place, we immediately receive a blessings package from His goodness that encompasses everything we need to live a life of faith and godliness. (Ephesians 1:3; 2 Peter 1:3)
- These blessings are associated with the heavenly realms—the unseen world of spiritual reality, a dimension we do not see. Anytime you ask God to heal someone, work in someone's life you are thinking about this unseen world. (John 3; 2 Kings 2:11; 6:8-17; Daniel 9:21-23; 10:12-14; Matthew 26:53)
- When Christ was raised from the dead and ascended into heaven, he was exalted over all the powers there. (Ephesians 1:20-22) We as believers, all of us (the Church), join Christ there. (Ephesians 2:6; 3:10)

### Blessing: Chosen to Be Holy and Blameless (v. 4)

#### What can it mean?

It is very clear that God had a plan from the beginning for all believers to be in Christ (v. 3). God is Sovereign, but His sovereignty is always wise, holy, good and loving. His plan would be also. God desires all men to believe (1 Timothy 2:4) and the gospel to be preached to all men (Matthew 28:18-20). God doesn't communicate how He chooses men. But, He speaks volumes through His Word about the fact that when we believe in Christ we are from then on called chosen and elect.

#### What can it not mean?

- It cannot mean that God doesn't love some people. (John 3:16)
- It cannot mean that having doubts about your faith means you have not been chosen. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and trust in Him alone for salvation, you are saved and you are, therefore, chosen because your identity is in Him, not in yourself.
- It cannot mean that you can't tell someone that (1) God loves her or (2) Jesus died for her because she may or may not be "chosen."

**For what are we chosen?** For God to make us holy and blameless.

### Blessing: Predestined to Be Adopted as Sons and Heirs (v. 5)

#### What can it mean?

God had a plan; He determined or decided something beforehand. Jesus' crucifixion was part of God's plan (Acts 4:28). Believers being conformed to the likeness of Jesus is part of God's plan (Romans 8:29). Here in Ephesians 1:5, God predetermined our adoption as sons & daughters that we might receive all the privileges of the natural son (Jesus), including inheritance rights.

#### What can it not mean?

It cannot mean that you are a puppet with no control over your "destiny." God's rules are clear. Individuals choose to be for Him or against Him. Based upon one's choice, the result is either all spiritual blessings and heaven or nothing and hell.



## Blessing: Lavished with His Grace (v. 6 & 8)

Grace is what God does to make men and women acceptable to Him. Mankind cannot earn such favor, does not deserve such favor, and will never merit such favor. It is summed up in the name, person, and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Man receives this favor or acceptance from God as a free gift through faith.

## Blessing: Redemption (v. 7)

Jesus Christ has paid a full ransom price for the whole world (2 Peter 2:1) by His blood to purchase us out of slavery to sin and release us into freedom. We accept this payment of ransom by faith and are from then on a possession of God and secure in freedom from the slave master, sin, and its hold of guilt on us.

Redeemed persons respond by believing in the good news, resting in the good news, and rejoicing in the good news, while giving thanks to our Redeemer! (Hebrews 13:15)

- Present oneself to God to live for His glory (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- Willingly serve God and one another wholeheartedly.
- Spread the good news to others who are still slaves and don't yet know their ransom has already been paid.

## Blessing: Forgiveness of Sins (v. 7)

Man is guilty before a holy God (Romans 3:10-12, 23). God's answer to guilt is forgiveness. Man's guilt has been imputed (placed) on a substitute (Jesus Christ) and taken away. The cross demonstrates God's justice (Romans 3:25-26) because sin was paid for, and His love at the same time (Romans 5:8) because He Himself provided a substitute.

The sin is taken away, not just covered temporarily like happened in those OT sacrifices. (Colossians 2:13-14; John 1:29) This is an act of God's grace lavished upon us.

## Blessing: Revelation (v. 9)

Just knowing about God's grace, redemption paid, and forgiveness offered is a blessing for us. And, we also know His future plan when He will bring all things in heaven and on earth together under the headship of Christ. What God planned for in the past, enabled in the present through Christ and the cross, will be put into effect universally in the future.

## Blessing: Signed, Sealed and Delivered by the Holy Spirit (v. 13-14)

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, co-equal with God the Father and God the Son. He is a person, not a force, referred to with personal pronouns.

### What is His role?

To the general population of mankind, His role is to 1) place the truth about Christ in a clear light before someone so that it must be seen and acknowledged as truth, 2) convict them of their being in a state of sin, 3) reveal that Jesus is the righteous Savior who can save them from that sin, and 4) remind them of judgment should they refuse to receive that Savior. (John 16:7-11)

His job is also to glorify Jesus Christ, especially through believers. (John 16:14)



## What is His Purpose in the Believer's Life?

- To regenerate the believer—to give new spiritual life the moment someone believes in Christ, moving her from being in Adam to being in Christ.
- To baptize the believer into the Body of Christ and adopting her into the family of God.
- To indwell the believer, imparting the life of Christ. (Galatians 2:20)
- To mark the believer with the seal of God's ownership. (Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:22)

## What does Paul mean by "marked with a seal?"

It carries with it the idea of (1) ownership, (2) identification, (3) security, (4) permanence, and (5) completeness.

- God marks His people as His own through the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. His seal means we are wanted, valuable and important.
- Being sealed gives us continued assurance that we are God's children and will receive all the inheritance promised to His children—heaven, new bodies, reigning with Christ in His kingdom. There is no power greater than God who could break the seal, including yourself.
- Sealing also communicates that the contents are prepared and complete.
- Sealing takes place the moment you believe in Christ for salvation. All believers. No exception is given. It is immediate and permanent. God the Father does the sealing; the Holy Spirit is the seal. Nowhere are we exhorted to ask for it so it must be universal and immediate.

## What are the results of being sealed?

- We are guaranteed all that God has promised for our future.
- God's deposit of the Holy Spirit in believers' lives is the first payment of all the treasures that will be theirs. God will keep all His promises (guaranteeing our inheritance).
- The Holy Spirit being present within us assures us that we are His, that He won't forget about us when He comes, that we go to be with Him when we die, that our sins will never again count against us, that we are new creatures, that...
- The Holy Spirit transforms the believer's life, undeniably marking God's presence and God's ownership in that life—forever.

## Our Spiritual Blessing Package IN CHRIST

### Your position "in Christ" is your...

- Acceptance before God
- Assurance of salvation
- Identity

### Christ's presence "in you" is...

- Life
- Power for living
- The basis of a relationship

These are your spiritual blessings **in Christ** to be enjoyed now, meeting the deepest needs of humanity. These have nothing to do with your finances, your health, or your earthly family status. Praise God for them!



### 3. Lavished with Love

The treasure we have in our Father God who loves us dearly is more powerful than anything we could substitute for Him.

Approach God with freedom and confidence — Eph 3:12

- God hears because of Jesus in you
- Special language not needed
- God assists as we pray
- Go to God directly, no mediator needed
- No formula guarantees results

Enjoy a relationship with Someone who loves you dearly

Knowing God intimately — ask for it! Eph 1:17

Knowing the good God has for us — count on it! Eph 1:18-23

Knowing God loves you dearly — grasp it! Eph 3:14-21

*The reason you know God hears you is not because of you; it's because of Jesus in you, and you in Him, seated in Him.*

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*Our personal God uses His power to accomplish His own will and purposes and extends it to those who trust in Him to accomplish His will and purposes in their lives, also.*

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*“Dwell” = Jesus is so at home in our hearts that He is the dominating factor in our attitudes and behavior.*

- Unconditional love = unlimited, unquestioning, complete, total, entire, absolute. Not dependent upon worthiness.
- Performance-based love = dependent upon meeting a certain standard of performance; otherwise, disappointment and withholding of love.

*“There is nothing you can do to do make God love you more! There is nothing you can do to make God love you less! His love is Unconditional, Impartial, Everlasting, Infinite, Perfect!”  
(Richard Halverson)*



## 4. Live in the Power

We can live successfully in the power already available to us through God's Spirit.

### The Holy Spirit is God's Empowering Presence — Ephesians 3:16, 20

- Your position *in Christ* is — Assurance of salvation, Identity, and Acceptance before God.
- Christ's presence *in you* is — Life, The Basis of Relationship, Power for living today.

### Live in the Power for Daily Life, Relationships, & Battles — Ephesians 4, 5, & 6

	Living by the Spirit	Living by the Flesh	Response
DEFINITIONS	Submitting to and depending on God's Spirit as we daily live out the life of Christ within us—always leads to God's way of approaching life.	Submitting to the flesh (body, mind, emotions, will)—that is not born again, gets help from the world influenced by Satan, and does not become godly over time—always leads away from God's way of approaching life to your own way or the world's way.	<b>View yourself rightly</b> through your identity in Christ.
BEHAVIOR	Ephesians 4:1-3; 32; 5:1-2; 20	Ephesians 4:17-19; 31; 5:18	<b>Agree with God</b> (confession) that you are guilty of that behavior. You are already forgiven.  <b>Choose obedience</b> and decide you want to live by the Spirit's power in that area of your life (repentance).
WORDS	Ephesians 4:29	Ephesians 5:4	<b>Depend on the Spirit's power</b> by saying, "Lord Jesus, I can't do this, but you can do this in my life. I trust your Spirit to do this in me." Daily depend.
SPIRITUAL BATTLES	Ephesians 6:10-12; 16; 3:10-11	Giving in to substitutes that "seem to work"	<b>Watch</b> what He does!

*You know you are living by the Spirit when you step out in obedience to God's Word, depend on God's Spirit for the ability and power to do what He asks you to do, and trust God with the results.*



## 5. Spread the Riches

As light-bearers to people living in darkness, lead them to seek the treasure in Jesus Christ that is more powerful, valuable, and effective than anything they have been substituting for Him.

### Called Out of Darkness

The misery of those living in darkness — 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:1-12

### Into His Wonderful Light

We are light-bearers; live as children of the light — Ephesians 5:8-9

### Declare the Praises of Him Who Did This in Your Life

Communicate what He has done in your life — Romans 10:14; Revelation 12:11

Ideas to get you started:

- What did our creative God use to target your need and draw you closer to Him at some point in your life—even here?
- What is it like to be dearly loved by your Father God?
- Describe a great need that God has met in your life or a remarkable thing you.
- Share an area of your life where you have committed to saying: “Lord Jesus, I can’t do \_\_\_\_\_ on my own, but you can do \_\_\_\_\_ in my life. I trust your Spirit to do this in me.”

*“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)*

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*Evangelism is not about you involving Him in your outreach efforts. It is Him involving you in His...Only the Holy Spirit can open the eyes of unbelievers to the truth of the gospel... It is the job of believers to **communicate** the gospel. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to convert the heart. (David Souther, EvanTell)*