SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

Ephesians 1:1-14 ; 2 Corinthians 5:13-15

Ephesians 1: 1-2

Paul – Apostle - appointed messenger -

authorized to deliver the message of his Lord

Saints (sacred, consecrated) -faithful (sure, true)– In Christ Jesus (fixed position- no movement, place of rest)

Grace and peace (rest) – charis and shalom -

greetings in Greek and Hebrew

Paul showed his connection to both cultures -

“I have become all things to all men”

Four “blessings”

Ephesians 1: 3-6

God has conferred His favor on us – that’s grace

God planned creation with man in mind – He had a plan for us

Holy and blameless (faultless) – His design for us

Adopted as His sons – regeneration -

…to the praise of His glorious grace

Blessing of election and adoption

Ephesians 1: 7-10

Redemption – forgiveness – God’s mercy -

lavished on – smothered with, super- abundance

God’s pleasure and purpose – reconciliation v.10(b)

Blessing of redemption and forgiveness

Ephesians 1:11-12 -

Plan – Purpose – Praise

Big Plan - Chosen – elect – we are special -

Purpose – to be for the praise of His glory

Blessing of purpose

Ephesians 1: 13-14

Praise - marked by the Holy Spirit – down payment

God’s desire for His children is for them to be “for the praise of His glory”. The ‘select’

the commendation (applause) of His majesty (reputation)

Blessing of the Holy Spirit

What do these Spiritual Blessings tell us?

 That God loves us

 That He has only our good in mind

So how should we react to this greatest of all loves?

 We should live in that intimate relationship with

Him that

He provides for us…

 IN CHRIST JESUS!

Having experienced that love, we should feel compelled to share it

 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Christ’s love in me compels me

 Christ’s love for me convinces me

 Christ’s love at work in me changes me\_\_

DISCUSSION

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