



Guest Speaker: Dr. Ray Reynolds (Gulf Shores, AL)

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<u>Introduction</u>: All blessings come from our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit of God (**Ephesians 1:3**). Paul said, "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." As a child of God, we have to recognize the benefits of a blessed life and wonder what God wants us to do with it. What does it really mean to receive these blessings? Why must we keep things in proper perspective? How can my life impact others? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Reality of the Blessings

- A. The Blessing of the Father: Election (**Ephesians 1:3–6**)
- B. The Blessing of the Son: Redemption (**Ephesians 1:7–12**)
- C. The Blessing of the Spirit: Protection (**Ephesians 1:13-14**)
- D. The Blessing of the Believer: Revelation (Ephesians 1:15-21)

II. The Recognition of the Blessings

- A. Because of God... In Christ... By The Spirit... We Are Blessed (v. 3)
- B. Because of God... In Christ... By The Spirit... We Are Chosen (v. 4)
- C. Because of God... In Christ... By The Spirit... We Are Predestined (v. 5)
- D. Because of God... In Christ... By The Spirit... We Are Adopted (v. 5)
- E. Because of God... In Christ... By The Spirit... We Are Accepted (v. 6)
- F. Because of God... In Christ... By The Spirit... We Are Redeemed (v. 7)
- G. Because of God... In Christ... By The Spirit... We Are Forgiven (v. 7)

- H. Because of God... In Christ... By The Spirit... We Are Enlightened (vs. 8-9)
- I. Because of God... In Christ... By The Spirit... We Are Honored (v. 11)
- J. Because of God... In Christ... By The Spirit... We Are Sealed (v. 13)
- K. Because of God... In Christ... By The Spirit... We Are Assured (v. 14)
- L. Because of God... In Christ... By The Spirit... We Are Empowered (vs. 15-21)

III. The Reception of the Blessings

- A. Do you feel blessed by God the Father? Explain.
- B. Do you feel blessed by Jesus the Christ? Explain.
- C. Do you feel blessed by the Holy Spirit of God? Explain.
- D. How can you show the world that you have been blessed by God? Explain.

Conclusion: God blesses His people for a reason. **James 1:17** says, "Every good and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." Every good and perfect gift is meant to be shared with others. We must not keep it to ourselves. Do you know that God has blessed you? Do you take advantage of the blessings of God? Or do you take for granted the blessings of God? Let's live the REALLY blessed life!