

EPHESIANS 2020

Part 2 ALREADY BLESSED IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Last week we saw that Ephesians starts with great heavenly truth. So as we begin to enter into this Heavenly truth ... **we cross the border** into '*the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him*'. (Ephesians 1:16-17)

As we arrive here at the Heavenly gates of Ephesians, the first thing we encounter is **His unrestricted welcome**.

Ephesians 2:18 KJV

For through Him [Jesus] we ... have [Free] access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Unlike this world in which we currently live, where we face ever increasing restrictions ... border closures ... and the need for permits ... Where we're looked upon with suspicion ... have cotton buds poked up our nose ... and are made to go into forced quarantine ...

WHICH CAN MAKE US FEEL UNWELCOME & UNWANTED -

HERE, WE ARE WELCOMED, WANTED AND ENCOURAGED TO EXPERIENCE THIS HEAVENLY TRUTH ...

Rev 4:1

... Come up here ...

Accessing another country is never easy. There are laws demanding we prove ourselves worthy to enter. For example -

You can't get into Canada if you've had any previous criminal record ... even if it was a drink-driving charge over 20 years ago ... You will be turned away.

But here our past sins and failures are not counted. They are removed from us as far as the East is from the West and all we as the custodian see, is A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST JESUS.

You are welcomed with open arms ... something quite foreign to many of us ...

Here we begin to realise ...

Ephesians 2:19

... [We are] no longer strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with [all] the saints [in this place] and members of the Household of God.

The truth is, as a believer, we were 'BORN FROM ABOVE' and now have a heavenly nature which feels at home here in this Heavenly Truth.

In actual fact, up till now we have been living in a foreign land ... and here we've come home ...

This is where we belong ...

Philippians 3:20 NLT

... We are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Saviour.

SO WITHOUT RESTRICTION, WE WALK INTO THIS HEAVENLY TRUTH OF EPHESIANS, AND 'WHAM!' THE FIRST THING WE ENCOUNTER IS GOD'S OVERWHELMING BLESSEDNESS.

- **WE SEE WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN OVERWHELMING BLESSING**

Ephesians 1:3 **SLIDE**

*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.*

**THIS ISN'T POSSESSING THE BLESSING
THIS IS ACCESSING THE BLESSING**

So much teaching has been focused on us 'Possessing the Blessing' ... confessing and possessing the blessing ...

SLIDE *One guy wrote ...*

~~'Declare favour over your life. Nothing will begin to happen until you speak it into existence'~~ (Internet Statement)

Even as sincere Christians we pray ... 'Lord Bless Me' ...

The Hymn 'I Surrender All', which I love, is wrong when it states, *'All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee; Fill me with Thy love and power, **Let Thy blessing fall on me**'*. -

WE ARE ACTUALLY SEATED IN HEAVENLY PLACES WITH THE BLESSING. (Ephesians 2:6) **WE ARE WHERE THE BLESSING IS ...**
We don't need to ask for it to fall on us.

But here we are not told to try and possess anything but **to know we have already entered into all God has provided for us In Christ.**

THIS IS ACCESSING THE BLESSING, NOT POSSESSING THE BLESSING.

As a young guy, my first missionary adventure was to Fiji.

I remember getting off the plane in Nandi and being hit in the face by the humidity.

SLIDE *It was like walking into a wet blanket.*

I'd never experienced anything like it before. It literally took my breath away.

I thought, how am I going to survive this for 6 weeks?

So it is in Ephesians (in a positive sense).

SLIDE AS WE ENTER EPHESIANS WE ARE IMMEDIATELY CONFRONTED WITH AN ATMOSPHERE OF GOD'S BLESSEDNESS. HIS BLANKET OF BLESSEDNESS FILLS THE FIRST CHAPTER.

IN FACT, THIS VERSE IS A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ALL THE NUMEROUS BLESSINGS THAT COME AFTER THIS IN EPHESIANS.

- **WE SEE THAT PAUL CALLS GOD 'BLESSED'**

Ephesians 1:3 **SLIDE**

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.

We were taught as young Christians ... as we praised God and lifted up our hands to Him ... **that God was Blessed.** It was like He said, 'Oh look at her lifting her hands up to me ... This really blesses me'.

This idea came from -

Psalm 134:2 Christian Standard Bible

Lift up your hands in the Holy Place and bless the Lord!

When Paul declares 'Blessed Be God', it is 'Praise of God' ... but it is ... far more than 'Praise OF GOD' ...

Paul is declaring GOD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL BLESSING.

He's saying that **GOD HIMSELF IS 'BLESSEDNESS'** ...

ALL BLESSING ORIGINATES FROM HIM & EMINATES FROM HIM.

Without Him, there would be no blessing ... And now because of Him there is **every blessing** ... Because He Himself is blessedness.

Romans 1:25 **SLIDE**

*[Evil men] exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, **who is blessed forever.** Amen.*

IN FACT GOD'S BLESSEDNESS SATURATES ALL OF HEAVEN.

***SO, ALL BLESSING COMES FROM GOD THE FATHER ...
IT ALWAYS HAS & IT ALWAYS WILL ...***

But notice Paul uses the same word 3 different ways in our verse -

SLIDE **Blessed** be God ... who has **blessed** us with all **blessing**

PARAPHRASED ...

God Blesses us in His Blessedness so we can be a part of His blessedness ...

He is the **Reservoir of Blessing.**

These 3 'bless' words all come from the same 2 root words

'**Eu**' meaning 'good' or 'well'

'**Logos**' meaning 'Word', Statement

Eulogos = A STATEMENT OF WELL-BEING

For example: Eulogy - a statement in honour of someone, usually deceased.

**BUT THIS MEANS MUCH MORE THAN JUST A VERBAL
STATEMENT**

SLIDE THIS MEANS

God is the Living Statement of total Wellbeing and He decrees His wellbeing to us so we become part of this spiritual wellbeing.

- **WE ALSO SEE THIS BLESSING HAS ALREADY HAPPENED**

Ephesians 1:3 **SLIDE**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **has [already] blessed us** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*

We don't make it happen ... **IT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED.**

THE MOMENT WE BELIEVED, WE BECAME A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST & THAT PERSON THAT YOU NOW ARE HAS ALREADY ENTERED INTO EVERY BLESSING IN CHRIST JESUS.

It's not a matter of us trying to confess something into happening,
It's a matter of us understanding what has already happened.

- **WE ALSO SEE THE BLESSING IS ONLY 'IN CHRIST' - AS WE ARE IN CHRIST**

Ephesians 1:3 **SLIDE**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has [already] blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places **in Christ.***

JESUS CHRIST ALONE RECEIVED ALL BLESSING

GOD DOESN'T BESTOW HIS BLESSING ON US BECAUSE HE'S A NICE GUY ...

WE CAN ONLY ENTER HIS BLESSING PURELY BECAUSE WE ARE 'IN CHRIST'.

GOD HAS ONLY BESTOWED HIS MOST MAGNIFICENT & PRISTINE BLESSING ON ONE MAN WHO IS WORTHY OF HIS BLESSING. THAT IS JESUS CHRIST.

Revelation 5:11-12

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice:

SLIDE *"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and **blessing!**"*

JESUS WAS THE DIVINE NATURE ...

THERE WAS NOT the slightest trace of sin in Him. He was always "holy, harmless, and undefiled, and separate from sinners." God cannot look upon sin, as it is abhorrent to his nature, but he could look upon Christ, for "in him

was no sin.” “The prince of this world cometh,” saith he, “but hath nothing in me”. (Spurgeon)

JESUS WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT GOD THE FATHER WAS PROUD TO CALL HIS SON

Matthew 3:17

*... ‘This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well (extremely) pleased.’
(Also Matthew 17:5)*

He alone deserved this blessing ... no one else ...

As declared by the eternal, Holy and exalted God of all creation ... there was Only one worthy.

JESUS HAD A DIVINE, SINLESS NATURE

He walked through all sin’s pollution and remained spotless and pure.

JESUS HAD BORN THE BRUNT OF SATAN’S OPPRESSION WITHOUT FAULTING OR BOWING TO HIS EVIL DOMINATION.

JESUS HAD PASSED THE INTENSE SCRUTINY OF THE LAW

In every minute detail over 33 years, Jesus stood up to the extreme examination and constant inspection of the Law and passed, in thought and deed, in unspoilt and pristine condition, with the highest honour.

THAT WAS ONLY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Every blessing was always His. But now as a man, for us, He secured all blessing through the triumph over sin, both in His life and in His death.

- **WE SEE JESUS IS ‘*OUR* LORD JESUS CHRIST’**

Ephesians 1:3 **SLIDE**

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.

In the Old Testament, God was always identified with the great patriarchs, e.g. He is often called ‘The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob’. (These were forerunners of the Real One to come ...)

But no longer in the New Testament ...

THE FATHER IS KNOWN AS

'THE ... FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ...'

**NB: THE APOSTLE DOESN'T SAY, 'GOD OUR FATHER'
(He is only our Father through Christ.)**

BUT HE DOES SAY 'OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST'.

**AH, THANK GOD JESUS IS 'OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST'.
THAT'S BECAUSE HE HAS ENTERED INTO COVENANT
RELATIONSHIP WITH US ...**

BUT CAN WE GRASP THIS ...

**JESUS CHRIST, THE MOST EXQUISITE SON OF THE ETERNAL
FATHER ... THE MOST PURE & PRISTINE GLORIFIED ONE ...
HIGHLY EXALTED WITH A NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME ...**

HAS BECOME 'OURS'.

'Our' = Personal / Possessive Pronoun

HE IS 'OUR LORD JESUS' ... He has entered into covenant with us.

Hebrews 2:11 NLT

... [He] is not ashamed to call [us] His brothers ...

SLIDE

Song of Solomon 2:16

My beloved is mine and I am His ...

Song of Solomon 6:3 Berean Study Bible

***I belong to my beloved and he belongs to me; he pastures his flock
among the lilies.***

Song of Solomon 7:10 Berean Study Study

I belong to my beloved, and his desire is for me.

THIS IS COVENANT REVELATION

**ANYTHING WE INHERIT MUST COME THROUGH HIM ...
GOD WILL NEVER DO ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF JESUS CHRIST ...
BUT EVERY BLESSING IS OURS BECAUSE JESUS IS OURS ...**

**THE WHOLE KEY TO EPHESIANS IS UNDERSTANDING WHERE WE
ARE - IN CHRIST ...**

And, as a result ... WHAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST ...

WHEN YOU START TO SEE THIS & EXPERIENCE IT SPIRITUALLY

- You will see your sorrow turn into joy
- You will see your darkness explode with light
- You will start to rise up over all your negative circumstances so they will not affect you and you will be enabled to overcome
- You will start to see your circumstances change

It overwhelms all negativity and doubt and we begin to feel different ... We have a greater energy running through us and it feels like nothing is impossible ... that everything is easy ... and enjoyable ...

THIS IS HIS BLESSING

We feel so positive ... like everything is possible in His will.

- YOU HAVE BECOME A PART OF **ALL** HIS BLESSEDNESS

This blessedness is a white-hot fire that can never be extinguished as it is part of the character of God Himself.

THIS IS THE BLESSING OF GOD

Proverbs 10:22 King James 2000 Bible

... It makes rich and he adds no sorrow with it.

You will be fruitful in season and whatever you do will prosper ...
(Psalm 1:3)

SUPPLIMENTAL

THE TRINITY: *Blessing is from the Father ... contained in Christ the Son ... and made relevant by the Holy Spirit ...*

THE WORD 'BLESSED'

BLESSED 1: (Eulogētos) Adjective - Nominative Masculine Singular
(used only of God) = worthy of praise. From eulogeo; adorable.

BLESSED 2: (eulogēsas) Verb - Aorist Participle Active -

(lit: I speak well of) I bless; pass: I am blessed. From a compound of eu and logos; to speak well of, i.e. to bless.

BLESSED 3: (eulogia) Noun - Dative Feminine Singular Adulation, praise, blessing, gift.

A QUOTE:

Doc Greenway said:

The reason there is no blessing in some Churches is because the churches have departed from the Heavenly realms.