**SHINE – SERMON NOTES   
PART 3 – EPHESIANS 1:1-23**

**Arise, shine; for your *light* has come,   
And the glory of the lord has risen upon you.**ISAIAH 60:1

**CHAPTER 1:1-23**

1. **Author v1a***1aPaul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,*
2. **Assembly v1b***1bTo the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:*
3. **Adoration/Worship v2-14**  
   *2Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
     
   3Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. 9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.*

*11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.*

1. **Activation v15-23**   
   *15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*
2. **Adoration/Worship**

**V3 -14 - Doxology**One sentence in the original language V3-14. This passage recites what God has done and is an expression of worship to honour Him. Almost like Paul can’t help himself – praise, blessings, grace, glory all to the Father for these unsearchable riches we have in Christ. It is because of the Father, those who are in Christ, have been ‘blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly realms.’ He then launches in this incredible exposition of what these spiritual blessings now include.

**The Father is the source, scope and sphere of our blessings 1:3**Man cannot save himself for salvation is of God and GOD alone. He is the Author, the Planner and the Source of our salvation.  
**He** has blessed us - ***source***  
**Every** spiritual blessing - ***scope***  
In the **heavenly realms – *sphere***  
  
***SOURCE*** - Only our Father can offer this incredible blessing of life in and with Him because He planned it, purposed it and He permitted it to be so. All life comes from Him including spiritual life.  
***SCOPE*** - We all have spiritual blessings in Christ. This can be translated as ‘all the blessings of the Spirit’, referring to the Holy Spirit of God. In the Old Testament, God promised His earthly people, Israel, material blessings as a reward for their obedience (Deut 28:1-13). In Christ, He promises to supply all our needs ‘according to His riches in glory by Christ JESUS (Phil 4:19), but He does not promise to shield us from either poverty or pain. The Father has given everything we need in the heavenly realms - for us to live a successful and satisfying Christian life. The spiritual is far more important than the material.  
***SPHERE*** - Our blessings are in the ‘heavenly realms’ in Christ. Perhaps a clearer translation would be ‘in the *heavenlies* in Christ’. The unsaved is interested in primarily in the *earthlies*, because this is where he lives. JESUS called them ‘children of the world’ (Luke 16:8). The Christian’s life is centred in *heaven*. His citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:20), his name is written in heaven (Luke 10:20), his Father is in heaven (Matt 6:9), his inheritance is in heaven (1 Peter 1:4) and his attention and affection ought to be centred on the things of heaven (Col 3:1-4).   
The *heavenlies* describes that place where the JESUS Christ is seated right now (Eph 1:2) and where the believer is seated with Him (Eph 2:6). The battles we fight on the earth are not with flesh and blood, but with ‘spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms’ (Eph 6:12).  
The Christian really operates in 2 realms or spheres: the human and the divine, the visible and the invisible. Physically, he is on the earth in a human body, but spiritually he is seated with Christ in the heavenly sphere – and it is this heavenly sphere that provides the power and direction for the earthly walk. The President of the US is not always seated at his desk in the White House, but that executive chair (seat), represents the of his power and. No matter where he is, he is the president, because only he has the privilege of sitting at the desk (the Resolute desk), reserved only for the president.  
Likewise the Christian, no matter where he may be on the earth, or what he is going through, or what season in life they are in – he is seated in the heavenlies with Christ,  
and this forms the basis of his life and power.

The Godhead/Trinity does not work independently, because they all worked together to make our salvation possible. But each Person has a special ministry to perform, or a special ‘spiritual deposit’ to make in our lives. Ephesians brings these life changing truths into our focus as we take a look.

1. **Blessings from God the Father (1:4-6)**

**He has chosen us (v4)** – doctrine of election has confused some and confounded  
others. Some people say, ‘Try and explain election and you may lose your mind. But try and explain it away and you may lose your soul’.   
Salvation begins with God – ‘*You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.’ (John15:16).* The lost sinner left to his own ways, does not seek God (Rom 3:10). God in His love seeks the sinner (Luke 19:10).  
Note that God chose us even before the He created the world, so that our salvation is wholly of His grace and not on the basis of anything we ourselves have done. He chose us *in Christ,* not in ourselves. And HE chose us for a purpose; to be like Him, for relationship - to be holy and blameless.   
*Holiness is the result of God’s choosing, not the basis for it.*  
Does the sinner respond to God’s grace against his own will? No, that would violate what the Bible clearly teaches about free will. The sinner responds to God because God’s grace makes him willing to respond. The mystery of divine sovereignty and human responsibility will never be solved in this life. Both are taught in the Bible (John 6:37). Both are true and both are essential.  
Also note, that all 3 persons in the Godhead are involved in our salvation.   
As far as God is concerned, you were saved when He chose you in Christ before the creation of the world, in eternity past. But that alone did not save you. As far as God the Son is concerned, you were saved when He died on the cross for you. As far as God the Spirit is concerned, you were actually saved when you yielded for life to JESUS, believed on Him as your Lord and Saviour. You were rebirthed, regenerated and sealed by the Holy when you chose to believe.  
  
**He had adopted us (v5) –** Here we meet the word predestination. ‘To ordain beforehand, to predetermine.’ This is a word that refers to what GOD does for His people. Nowhere in the Bible are we taught that people are predestined to hell, because this word refers only to God’s people. Election seems to refer people, while predestination seems to refer to purpose:

- the crucifixion of Christ and all the events that surrounded it were   
 predestined (Acts 4:25-28)

- our adoption (Eph 1:5)

- our conformity to Christ (Rom 8:29-30)

- our future inheritance (Eph 1:11)

Adoption was common among the Greeks and Romans, who granted the adopted son all the privileges of the natural son, including inheritance rights.  
You do not get into God’s family by adoption. You get into His family by the regeneration of the new birth (1 Peter 1:23 & Titus 3:5-7). Adoption is the act of God by which He gives His “new children” an adult standing in the family. He does this in order for us to immediately begin to claim our inheritance and enjoy our spiritual wealth and riches. An immature child cannot use the inheritance, but a mature son can. This means you do not have to wait until you are an old saint before you can claim your riches in Christ.

**He has accepted us (v6) –** We cannot make ourselves acceptable to God, but He, by His grace, makes us accepted in Christ, His Beloved. This is our eternal position that will not change. It literally reads in the Greek – ‘*He has be-graced us’,* or as some translation read, ‘*which He has freely bestowed on us in the Beloved’.*   
The idea behind this magnificent truth is the same – BECAUSE OF GOD’S GRACE IN CHRIST, WE ARE ACCEPTED BEFORE HIM.

1. **Blessings from God the Son (1:7-12)**

**He has redeemed us (v 7a) –** To redeem means to ‘purchase and set free by paying a price’. There were 60 million slaves in the Roman empire during this time and often they were bought and sold like pieces of furniture. But a man could purchase a slave and set him free and this is what JESUS did for us. The price was His own blood   
(1 Peter 1:18). This means we were set free from the law (Gal 5:1), free from slavery to sin (Rom 6:17-18), as well as free from the power of Satan and the world (Gal 1:14;   
Col 1:13-14). If we were still slaves we would not be blessed and spiritually rich, but because we have been redeemed and are sons, we are blessed and rich!  
  
**He has forgiven us (v7b)** – The word forgive means ‘to carry away’. This reminds us of the ritual on the Jewish day of Atonement, when the high priest sent the scapegoat into the wilderness (Lev 16). First the priest killed one of the two goats and sprinkled its blood before God on the mercy seat. Then he confessed Israel’s sin over the live goat and had the goat taken into the wilderness to be lost. Christ died to carry our sins away so that they may never been seen again (Ps 103:12; John 1:29). No written accusation can stand against us because our sins have been permanently and irreversibly taken away! Sin has made us poor, but forgiveness makes us blessed and rich!  
  
**He has revealed God’s will to us (v8-10) –** God’s plan is not a mystery anymore. We believers are a part of God’s ‘inner circle’ and we share the secret that God will one day bring everything together in Christ.   
Ever since sin came into the world, things have been falling apart. First, man was separated from God (Gen 3), then man was separated from man as Cain killed Abel his brother (Gen 4). People have tried to maintain a kind of unity through the ages as can be seen in the Tower of Babel (Gen 11). God called Abraham and put a temporary separation between Jew and Gentile, a difference until Christ’s death on the cross (Eph 2:13-16). Sin is tearing everything apart, but in Christ, God will gather everything together in the culmination of the ages. Hallelujah, we are part of this great eternal plan of God.  
  
**He has made us an inheritance (v11-12) –** In Christ we have a glorious inheritance (1 Peter 1:1-4) and in Christ we are an inheritance. Both are true and the one includes the other. We are valuable to Him. Think of the price God paid to purchase us and make us part of His inheritance! God the Son is the Father’s love gift to us; and we are the Father’s love gift to His Son. The church is Christ’s body (Eph 1:22-23), building (Eph 2:19-22) and His bride (Eph 5:22-23); Christ’s future inheritance is wrapped up in His church. We are ‘joint-heirs with Christ’ (Rom 8:17), which means that He cannot claim His inheritance apart from us! Wow!!!!

**C. Blessings from God the Spirit – (v13-14)**

**He has sealed us (v13) –** Having heard the Word, the Ephesians believed, and it is this that that brought salvation (Eph 2:8-9). When they believed they were sealed with the Spirit. What is the significance of this sealing?   
Sealing speaks of a *finished transaction*. Even today, when an important document is processed, it is stamped with an official seal to signify a complete transaction. It is finished, JESUS said on the cross and when we believed the Holy Spirit caused us to be born again and sealed us, signifying the completed transaction. You are saved and sealed.  
Sealing also implies *ownership.* God put His sealed on us because He purchased us to be His very own (1 Corinth 6:19-20).   
It also means *security and protection.*  The Roman seal on the tomb of JESUS carried this meaning. So, we as believers belong to God and are safe and protected because we are part of the finished transaction. According to John 14:16-17, the Holy Spirit abides with the believer forever. It is possible to grieve the Spirit and thereby lose the blessing of ministry, service of our witness (Eph 4:30).   
But He doesn’t leave us.  
Another use for the seal is a mark of *authenticity.* Just as a signature of a letter attests to the genuineness of the document, so the presence of the Spirit proves the believer is genuine. *‘If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ’* (Rom 8:9). It is not simply our lip profession, our religious activity, or our good works, but the witness of the Spirit that makes our profession authentic.

**He has given us an earnest (deposit) (v14) –** Earnest is a fascinating word! In Paul’s day it meant ‘*the down payment to guarantee the final purchase of some commodity or piece of property’*. Even today we put deposits down from anything of significant value eg. House, car etc. The Holy Spirit is God’s first installment to guarantee to His children that He will finish His work and will eventually bring them to glory. The ‘redemption of the purchased possession’ refers to the redemption of the body at the return of Christ (Rom 8:18-23). We experience redemption in 3 stages as believers:  
  
 1. We have been redeemed through faith in JESUS Christ (Eph 1:7)  
 SALVATION - Past  
  
 2. We are being redeemed as the Spirit works in our lives to make us   
 more like Christ (Rom 8:1-4)  
 SANCTIFICATION - Present  
  
 3. We shall be redeemed when Christ returns and we become like Him.   
 We receive our glorious bodies (Phil 3:21)   
 GLORIFICATION – Future

But the word ‘earnest’ also means ‘engagement ring’. In Greece today you would find this word ‘ἀρραβών’ being used that way. But after all, isn’t an engagement ring an assurance – a guarantee – that the promise will be kept? Our relationship to God is not merely a commercial one, but also a personal experience of love. He is the Groom and His church is the Bride. We know that He will come and claim His bride because He has given us His promise and His Spirit as an ‘engagement ring’. What greater assurance could we want?

1. **Activation v15-23** - Prayer for enlightenment

We have been delving into the glorious realities of our great God and Saviour –   
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Father** – chosen us, adopted us and accepted us.  
**Son** – redeemed us, forgiving us, revealed God’s plan for us and made us into an inheritance.  
**Spirit** – sealed us, He is our deposit.  
  
**How incredibly blessed and spiritually rich we are   
in Christ!**

We have discovered that we were born rich/blessed when we trusted in Christ. But this is not enough, for we must grow in our understanding of our riches if we are ever going to use them and live in them for the glory of God. Too many Christians have never taking the time to find out the vast spiritual wealth that the Father has laid up for us in the spiritual realm through Christ JESUS.

Paul’s desire for the Ephesians was to understand what great wealth they had in Christ. Paul knew of their faith and love and in this he rejoiced. The Christian life has 2 dimensions: faith toward God and love towards people and you cannot separate the 2. But Paul knew that this was just the beginning and he wanted them to know so much more, so that is why he prayed for them and for us.   
Notice Paul doesn’t pray for material things – His emphasis was on spiritual perception and real Christian character.  
He did not ask God to give them what they did not have, but rather prayed that God would reveal to them what they already had.