

CALL to PRAYER - (anti-Israel rally in OKC) Thank God for the spiritual blessing of Israel. Gen. 12:3c

Eph. 1:1-3 - A Thanksgiving List of Spiritual Blessings

Intro – It is Thanksgiving week in the USA, and we have much to thankful for as Americans and as Christians. God is source of all blessings ^{James 1:17} and it is a great sin to be ungrateful and refuse to thank the One from whom all blessings flow ^{Rom. 1:21}. God has blessed all of humanity with many physical blessings ^(common grace) but He has also lavished upon the redeemed tremendous spiritual blessings. Many of these spiritual blessings are listed for us in Eph. 1. Last week we introduced this book and today we are going to note this list of spiritual blessings. Ephesians 1:3-14 may be the longest sentence in the Bible. It is as though Paul is overflowing with excitement and can't take a breath until he mentions as many blessings as he can. (Like when you were a kid a tried to say the ABCs in one breath). So too, Paul quickly exhales a large list of spiritual blessings so that we might be enamored with this treasure trove of blessings. So today, I have a 26-point message ^(ABC's). Don't worry, I won't elaborate on all of them, but I just want to enumerate them. We are going to "*count our many blessings and name them one by one...see what God has done.*" A Thanksgiving List of Spiritual Blessings. (if you like lists I hope you use this one)

1. Apostle 1:1
 - a. Paul was the *odd man out* among the Apostles sent to the odd people out
 - b. Thank God that He sent an Apostle to the gentiles.
2. Saints 1:1 Saints = holy ones Those set apart in Christ and faithful in Christ
 - a. The family of faith is a great blessing.
3. Grace 1:2 x's 3
 - a. More than an *unearned gift* given to a neutral party. Grace is a de-merited favor.
 - i. Grace is what is given to those who have earned the exact opposite.
4. Peace 1:2
 - a. If you lack peace, then you need to experience grace.
 - b. If you have peace, you have much to be thankful for. (Phil 4:6-7)
5. God our Father 1:2-3
 - a. The Father is mentioned @ 26 x's in the first 14 verses. Matt. 6:9
 - b. God is Father in relation to His Son.....and us!
 - c. God is the source of all grace and peace. If you need grace & peace...God is the place
6. Lord Jesus Christ 1:2-3 Jesus is referenced @ 13 x's in the first 14 verses.
 - a. Lord KING of kings and LORD of lords. Jesus is God/LORD
 - b. Jesus Jesus = Jehovah saves
 - c. Christ - The only One among all of humanity appointed & anointed to save humanity
7. Spiritual blessings 1:3
 - a. Physical blessings are great but spiritual blessings are much greater.
 - b. Mark 8:36 (which kind tops your list?)
8. Chosen 1:4 chosen to be saints (holy)
 - a. John 15:16 2 Tim. 1:9 1 Peter 2:9-10
 - b. "My Lord I did not chose You for that could not be..." # 289 in blue hymnal

9. Loved 1:4c
 - a. Human love is awesome...but the love of God is beyond compare. Eph. 3:18-19
10. Predestined 1:4c-5 (2 x's - 1:5, 11)
 - a. The saint's eternal destination was lovingly decided beforehand.
 - i. How firm a foundation is our eternal salvation! Romans 8:30
11. Adopted 1:5
 - a. God predetermined to chose us as his children.
 - b. We are not natural children, but God graciously chose to make us His children.
12. Kind intention of His will 1:5, 9 (2 x's)
 - a. What a beautiful blessing describing God's intention
 - i. *Love & Kindness* are the bookends of *Predestination & Adoption*.
13. Accepted in the Beloved (NKJV) 1:6
 - a. God has accepted us! God freely bestowed grace to us by accepting us.
 - i. Salvation is when God accepts us. (1 John 4:10,19)
14. Redemption 1:7
 - a. If you are "blood bought" then you are blessed
 - i. Acts 20:28c Rev. 5:9
15. Forgiveness 1:7
 - a. Forgiveness is purchased by blood redemption.
 - i. Our forgiveness is costly Heb. 9:22
16. Revelation 1:8-9
 - a. God has given us an understanding 1 John 5:20
17. Purpose 1:9-11
 - a. There is a purpose to this existence.
18. Inheritance 1:11, 14 (2 x's)
 - a. Romans 8:16-17 1 Peter 1:3-4 We are in the will
19. Hope 1:12
 - a. To be without Christ is to be without hope - Eph. 2:12
20. Message of Truth 1:13 John 17:17
 - a. Truth is a precious commodity in this day full of lies. Thank God for truth
21. Gospel of Salvation 1:13
 - a. What a blessing to live in a place where you can hear the gospel
22. Belief/faith 1:13
 - a. What a blessing to be given ears to hear and heart to believe. Eph. 2:8 Acts 18:27c
23. Sealed 1:13
 - a. Notarized as a testimony that your faith is not a forgery/fake
24. Holy Spirit 1:13
 - a. The Spirit is the "Notary Public" Rom. 8:16
25. Promise /pledge/guarantee 1:13-14
 - a. 2 Cor. 1:22 2 Cor. 5:5 Eph. 4:30
26. To the praise of His glory 1:6, 12, 14
 - a. This is a blessing we are to return to the One who has blessed us. Psalm 103:2
 - b. As you make your shopping list this week ...don't forget this Thanksgiving List
 - i. Eph. 1:3