

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 1:1-6.**
- B. We serve a great God! To try and comprehend the nature and wonder of God is impossible at best.
- C. But the Bible reveals our heavenly Father in ways that we can understand. In the Ephesians passage above, we want to look at how great God is in doing these things for us in X.
- D. We shall look at these four things:
 1. God gives all spiritual blessings.
 2. God has chosen Xians to be holy and blameless.
 3. God has predestined the faithful to adoption as sons.
 4. God has freely given us grace to be saved.

I. GOD GIVES ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS.

- A. Scripture text: Ephesians 1:3.
- B. Everyone enjoys the physical blessings of the Father, but the spiritual blessings are more important.
- C. Sunshine and rain are good, but fellowship, forgiveness and love are better.
- D. God has given man everything that pertains to life and godliness (2Pet. 1:3).
- E. But one must remember the key to having all these spiritual blessings. The key is X! Without X one cannot enjoy these things. No wonder that Jesus said He came to give us an abundant life; it is a life full of spiritual blessings.
- F. Spiritual blessings truly satisfy the soul (Mt. 5:6).

II. GOD HAS CHOSEN XIANS TO BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS.

- A. Scripture text: Ephesians 1:4.
- B. God, in His infinite wisdom knew that man would sin. The remedy for that sin in JC. Again, it is in Him that the faithful know that they are holy and blameless.
- C. The call of God is to come out of the world and be separate from sin (2Cor. 6:17).
- D. By coming out of the world, we come into X. In His church, we are in a family that is holy and blameless because of the blood of Jesus (Rev. 12:11; 1Jn. 1:6,7).
- E. God has not chosen those of other world religions to be holy and blameless. These religions do not receive the blessings of X. God's choice was made even before the creation of the world and cannot be changed.

III. GOD HAS PREDESTINED THE FAITHFUL TO ADOPTION AS SONS.

- A. Scripture text: Ephesians 1:5.
- B. It was God's desire, even before man was created, that man be in God's "family" by adoption. As we become like X, we can be adopted into God's family.
- C. This does NOT mean that certain people are predestined to heaven and others and predestined to hell.
- D. What it does mean is that God's plan for making man like His Son and adopting them into His "family" was predetermined. Determined before man was even made.
- E. Therefore, anyone who desires to come to God through X may do so. However, they must do it according to the predetermined plan of God as laid out in the Scriptures.
- F. God's highest expectation and desire for man is to be like His Son.

IV. GOD HAS FREELY GIVEN US GRACE TO BE SAVED.

- A. Scripture text: Ephesians 1:6.
- B. Man can try to be justified in God's sight three ways (two don't work):

1. Legalism--which is to try and be justified by law keeping. This doesn't work because no one can do it (Jas. 2:10).
 2. Merit--which is to try and be justified through good works. This doesn't work because no one can do everything needed to be done, nor take care of the sin problem (Lk. 17:10).
 3. Grace--which is unmerited favor given for justification. This works, and is what God gives through X (Jn. 1:17).
- C. This grace is not cheap, the cost was the blood of X. Without X's great sacrifice of Himself, grace cannot be offered. Jesus became the propitiation in our behalf so that we receive grace instead of wrath.
- D. God paid the price of our salvation, it is now a free gift (1Cor. 6:20; Eph. 2:8,9).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. How do you see God? Is He an old man, with a white beard, sitting on a throne, zapping people into hell? I hope not.
- B. The God of the Bible is one who can and will:
 1. Give us every spiritual blessing (in X).
 2. Make us holy and blameless in His sight.
 3. Determine how we can be adopted into His 'family.'
 4. Freely give us grace to be saved and justified.
- C. Respond to this wonderful, loving, forgiving God today. Take the spiritual blessings that He offers by being obedient.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.