

*Pictures of Ephesus

I. Paul is an example of the blessing of God

A. He was a recipient of the grace of God

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

B. He was forgiven for his sins

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners- of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.” (I Timothy 1:15-16)

C. He was adopted into God’s family

“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” (Romans 8:16)

D. He was changed into a new person

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

E. He was called to be an apostle

II. All followers of Christ have been blessed

A. We are blessed to be holy

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” (Matthew 5:8)

B. We are called to live holy lives in the world

“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.” (I Peter 1:15)

C. We are blessed to have a relationship with Jesus

“To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:27)

D. We are called to be faithful followers of Jesus

III. The blessings of God

A. We are blessed with the grace of God

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he has lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.” (Ephesians 1:7-8)

B. We are blessed with the peace of God

IV. The God of who blesses is worthy to be blessed

A. We bless God through our praise

“Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.” (Psalm 103:1)

“For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.” (Psalm 96:1)

B. We bless God through our thanks

“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.” (Psalm 105:1)

C. We bless God through our love

“Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.” (Matthew 22:37-38)

V. The blessing of God comes to us in Christ

A. We have been blessed in the heavenly realms

“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:6)

B. We have every spiritual blessing in Christ

“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.” (2 Peter 1:3)