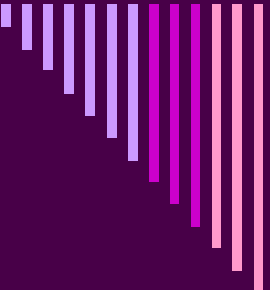




EPHESIANS


Chapter 1:7-22

Jim Hoffman




Every Spiritual Blessings #3; Redeemed by God.

- Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, 8 which He lavished upon us. NASB
 - NT:629 polu/trwsi apolutrosis (ap-ol-oo'-tro-sis); from a compound of NT:575 and NT:3083; (the act) **ransom in full**, i.e. (figuratively) riddance, or (specially) Christian salvation:(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)
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Every Spiritual Blessings #3; Redeemed by God.

- In the book of Ruth we see redemption played out for us.
 - Naomi lost her home.
 - Boaz was of near kin to her.
 - Boaz had the means to buy back her property.
 - Boaz was also willing to buy back the property.
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Every Spiritual Blessings #3; Redeemed by God.

- In the real life here is how the story that unfolds in Ruth typifies redemption for us.
 - Man lost his home (his place with God) through sin.
 - Jesus became a man and thus our 'kin'.
 - Jesus had the means to pay our debt.
 - Jesus was also willing to buy us back.
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Redemption of the empty, useless, and dirty.





Every Spiritual Blessings #3; *Redeemed by God.*


- How long has it been since you've seen yourself as lost and in need of redemption?
 - We were slaves to sin and out in the world pursuing all that the flesh wanted without the power to make any substantial change.
 - Jesus comes our way and pays the price of our redemption.
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Every Spiritual Blessings #3; *Redeemed by God.*

- He planned all along to pick us up, clean us up and fill us up!
 - 1 Cor 6:20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. NIV
 - 1 Cor 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. NIV






Every Spiritual Blessings #3; *Redeemed by God.*

- NT:59 a)gora/zw agorazo (ag-or-ad'-zo); from NT:58; properly, to go to market, i.e. (by implication) to purchase; specially, to redeem: KJV - buy, redeem. (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)
- This word describes a special, intentional, purchase like is found in Rev 3:18.
- We are the special gift Jesus bought for Himself.



Every Spiritual Blessings #4; *Forgiven by God.*

- We are forgiven. This is a central truth in the salvation story in both testaments. This is among the most basic of our spiritual and emotional needs before God.
 - To be forgiven is to have our sins removed from us and to have it be a just transaction.
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Every Spiritual Blessings #4; *Forgiven by God.*

- What does it mean to us that we are forgiven?
 - Perhaps one of our greatest struggles of faith is to believe that our sins, though not yet committed, were paid for 2,000 years ago on a cross outside of Jerusalem.
 - That struggle to believe is yet one more evidence of our craving for forgiveness and our need to know for certain that our sin has been let loose from us.
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Every Spiritual Blessings #5; *Given insight by God.*

- The fact that we struggle with matters of faith makes blessing #5 all the more precious to us; God gives us a new ability to understand spiritual truth as a part of our redemption.
 - Let's face it, we were spiritually dead, now we are spiritually alive and the new life includes the blessing of a new understanding.
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Every Spiritual Blessings #5; *Given insight by God.*

- We are given wisdom and insight into the mystery of His will. We come to understand the importance of life and death, heaven and hell, good and evil, and His desire to save us.
 - Spiritual wisdom and insight is what allows us to set aside some present desires and comforts in favor of the things that last.
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Every Spiritual Blessings #6; *We have an inheritance.*

- We have been given an inheritance; many of us wonder how it will go for us financially in retirement.
 - Many in the world spend significant amounts of time planning for 20 to 30 years of their lives.
 - It is sad to see so many, so short sighted.
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Every Spiritual Blessings #6; *We have an inheritance.*

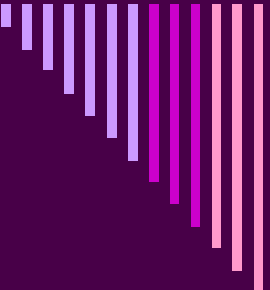
- For the Christian, we ought to be good enough stewards to plan for retirement, but also wise enough to know that our real riches are in Christ.
- Would you rather be rich and lost, or poor and saved?
- The very fact that we know the answer to that question speaks volumes about the spiritual insight we have been blessed with.





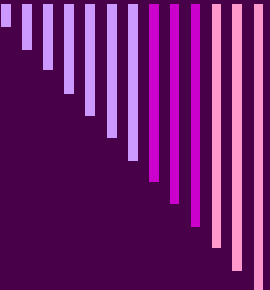
Every Spiritual Blessings #6; *We have an inheritance.*

- Rom 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. NIV
 - Based upon our faith in all that Christ has done for us, we become members in full standing in the family of God.
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Every Spiritual Blessings #7; *The presence of His Spirit.*

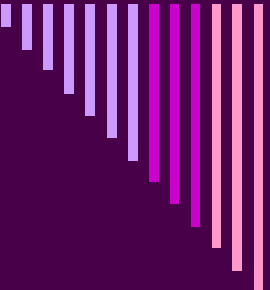
- Eph 1:13-14 having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory. NIV
 - John 14:17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. NIV
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Every Spiritual Blessings #7; *The presence of His Spirit.*


- Everyone likes to have assurances that what is promised to us will be granted to us. The Holy Spirit is God's promise to us that all of the spiritual blessings described are really our's.
- He is also God's seal (or marking) upon us. In ancient cultures one way of sealing possessions was to seal them with a signet ring. God has sealed us with His Spirit.





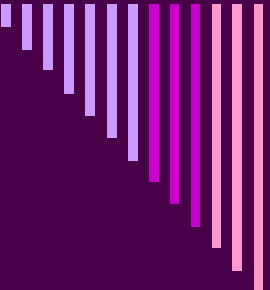
Every Spiritual Blessings #7; *The presence of His Spirit.*

- My greatest appreciation for the Pentecostal church is that we readily recognize the Holy Spirit's role in our lives and we do not seek to manage Him.
 - His presence in our lives is a blessing that we ignore at our own peril; when we sin He is grieved and when we disobey He is quenched.
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How to pray for others; verses 15-22


- Paul prays repeatedly for these believers that they would have the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they may know God better.
 - The value of knowing God cannot be overstated. The knowledge of God brings us closer to Him, and to know Him more is to love Him more.
 - And to love Him more is 50% of all that God requires of us and desires for us. (Math 22:37-40)
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How to pray for others; verses 15-22


- He also prays that the ‘eyes of their heart’ may be enlightened; In other words, he prays that all of the deep and sacred truths he had just presented might no longer be hidden from them.

 - Three things to grasp:
 - Their calling
 - Their inheritance
 - The power of God to bring it all about
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How to pray for others; verses 15-22

- It is the power of God that secures our hope, our calling, and our inheritance.
 - He is able to keep His promises and He has proven that He will keep His promises.
 - The same power that raised Christ from the dead is employed by God to keep His promises.
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How to pray for others; verses 15-22

- So how should we pray for others?
 - We should be praying that they come to know God better and for them to have a greater understanding of all that God has given us in Christ.
 - The more we understand what God has done for us, the greater our desire to obey Him.
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How to pray for others; verses 15-22

- We often pray for those that we love to be healed, or to be prosperous in some way, or for success in their personal relationships.
 - Far better I would say to pray that they draw close to God and then let all of the other details of life fall into place.
 - How shallow seem some of my most heartfelt prayers when considered in light of eternity.
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How to pray for others; verses 15-22

- Blaise Pascal hesitated to pray for relief from sickness, much less healing, when he had some physical ailment.
 - “I know not which is most profitable for me, health or sickness, wealth or poverty, nor anything else in the world. That discernment is beyond the power of men or angels and is hidden among the secrets of His providence”
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How to pray for others; verses 15-22

- The fact is that we do not always know God's will in many of life matters.
 - However, when we pray for those that we love that they would know God more we can also be sure that such a prayer is what God wills.
 - I am not offering here some cop out for our unanswered prayers, but rather a recipe for praying for the things that God wants.
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The church is the body of Christ.

- Eph 1:22-23 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. NIV
 - Eph 1:22-23 He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence. (from THE MESSAGE)
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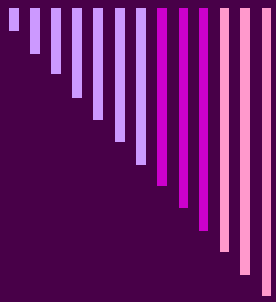
The church is the body of Christ.

- Eph 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. KJV
 - Rom 12:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. KJV
 - 1 Cor 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. KJV
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The church is the body of Christ.

- So if we are the body of Christ; what does that mean to us?
 - How do we use that truth in our everyday lives?
 - If we are His body, then we must ask ourselves this question; what did His body do when He was on earth that was different from what His body is doing today?
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What do you think?