

Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 8 October 2023 #1 Ephesus (Part 1)

1. What impacted you most from the Sunday sermon?

Ephesians 1. 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Praise 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...

- 2. In this prayer of praise, how is Paul also acting like a worship leader for the congregation?
- 3. What do you think it means to be 'blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ'? See **also Ephesians 2.1-7 and Ephesians 6.12**
- 4. Take time to pause and praise God together for this spiritual reality.

Ephesians 1. 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 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 reach their fulfilment - to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you 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.

- 5. In his praise of God, Paul begins to unpack just some of the reasons why God is worthy of our praise. Which of these spiritual blessings blesses you most today? & why?
- 6. Take time to pause to give praise to God for these spiritual blessings, and that you are also included in Christ.

In Paul's praising of God, he is not simply recording his personal appreciation of God, but he is also leading the believers in going wider and deeper in their understanding and praise of God.

7. How might we, in a similar way, help newer or younger Christians develop and grow in their praising of God?

I'm convinced that the better you get to know God in Spirit and in truth...

- the more reasons you'll have to praise God
- the more joy you'll have in your relationship with God
- and the more your praise and worship of God will become integrated into every part of your life.
- 8. What do you think?