

God's New Creation: The Church #2

What God Has Done – Ephesians 1:3-6

I. He Has Blessed Us

- A.** It starts with blessing
 - We bless God
 - Eulogy
 - Weighing God heavy
 - Because of who He is
 - And what He has done
 - It always starts here

- B.** He blesses us
 - Puts us where we are supposed to be
 - In Christ – no other way
 - With every spiritual blessing
 - Not physical
 - We are in Christ through the Spirit
 - We are spiritual
 - Every blessing the Holy Spirit produces
 - In the heavenly places
 - 1.** Where Christ is
 - 2.** Where we will be
 - 3.** “Keep your mind on things above”

II. He Keeps On Blessing Us

- A.** He chose (elected) us – Israel
- B.** Before the beginning of time
- C.** Totally His initiative
- D.** You are wanted by God. Wow!
- E.** Election is always understood in the bounds of grace
- F.** To be holy and blameless because we love Him
- G.** Behavior follows identity
 - My life reflects who I am – in Christ

- H.** He adopted us – predestined us
 - To be His children
 - New identity/old identity
 - Through Christ – only way it can happen

- I.** Because he wanted to – not because of us
- J.** This fulfillment of God's desire through what Christ did leads to praise being given to God
- K.** His grace comes to us through Christ

III. Thoughts

- A.** When you understand what God has done for us totally because of His will then everything has to start with praise to God!
- B.** Notice the Trinity
 - God our Father
 - Jesus the Son
 - All the blessings that come from the Holy Spirit
 - Paul is always a Trinitarian

- C.** The reality that you are chosen by God
 - The responsibility (the obvious response)
 - To be holy and blameless
 - II Peter 1:3

- D.** You are adopted
 - Family
 - Sibling and Jesus and each other
 - This gives God joy
 - It's His plan
 - It's why Jesus died!

- E.** All these blessings are ours:
 - In Christ
 - By Christ
 - Through Christ

- F.** It's all because we are believers
- G.** It's in the heavenly places
 - Keep your minds here!