



THE NEW SHAPE

Day 2 – S1 / 10/09/2022 : Meschack Mulenda

Ephesians 1:1-23

Corinthians 4:18

Matthew 6:19-20

John 15:16

John 1:12

Ephesians 1:7-12

1 Peter 1:18-19

1 Corinthians 6:20

1 Corinthians 2:12

1 Corinthians 2:9

1 Peter 1:4

Galatians 3:16

Galatians 3:29

Romans 8:11



DID YOU OPEN THE PACKAGE, WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN CHRIST?

Ephesians is a letter where Paul summarises and fully unpacks the gospel he was called to preach because he saw the need to awaken believers to their identity. In verse three (NKJV), there is a word that is repeated three times, and that is the word ‘bless’ in its different forms (blessed, blessing); “Blessed be God, He has blessed us, and all kind of blessings”. This implies that



B R A A M F A M I L Y

God is blessed, and because He is blessed, He can bless us. From whom He is, He can give. We cannot receive from someone who does not have. Therefore, we are blessed because God Himself is blessed. We, too, are worthy of being blessed by God.

As you read through the chapter, the number three stands out in many instances. In the Bible, the number three symbolises harmony, which comes down to the holy trinity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, all working in perfect harmony. The harmony of the trinity can be seen in creation. Other meanings of the number three are wholeness, new life, and

completeness. For example, Jesus rose after three days into a new body. Finally, the number three is used to insist on how deep a situation is or the intensity of something. Paul then describes the blessings we receive from a blessed God. These blessings take on three characteristics.

The Characteristics of The Blessings

These blessings are firstly spiritual and not material. It is essential to understand that the spirit is more real than the physical, and the spiritual is the initiator of what is physical. 2 Corinthians 4:18 states that “we do not focus our attention on what is seen but on what is unseen, for what is seen is temporary but what is unseen is eternal”. Secondly, they are in heavenly places, which is the place where these blessings cannot be stolen or corrupted (see Matthew 6:19-20). It is the safest place anyone can store their belongings because they carry eternal value. And thirdly, these blessings are in Christ. The implication is that we don’t do anything to earn it because Christ has done it all, and all the promises are yes and amen in Him. Also, because we are in Him, we have access to every available blessing.

To unpack the blessings, Paul mentions each believer’s blessing once they come to Christ. We see that God has blessed us in every dimension of His person, meaning there are blessings from the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Again, the number three. This highlights that when God gives, He does not withhold.

The Blessings from The Father (Ephesians 1:3-6)

The blessing of election: Election differs from selection because it does not depend on our performances. We are chosen regardless of our efforts. Whereas selection is based on specific criteria, failure to meet the criteria implies

disqualification. So, the Father has chosen us based on His good pleasure and not our merit (see John 15:16).



Adoption by predestination: Not only has God chosen us, but He has granted us the complete status of His children with all the benefits. We have been brought into the family of God, whose plan has always been from the beginning of time. What a marvellous thought to know that God has always had us in mind (see John 1:12).

Accepted in the beloved: He has united us in the union of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. So, we are not outcasts, but we belong. We are loved and accepted by the Father just as He loves the Son.

The Blessings from The Son (Ephesians 1:7-12)

Redemption is the price that Jesus paid for our sins to buy us from eternal condemnation, paid in full by the blood of Christ. No longer do we owe anything to this world, nor does the devil have any claim over our lives. Therefore, freedom becomes the reality of every believer because of redemption (see 1 Peter 1:18-19, 1 Corinthians 6:20).

Remission of sins: It's closely related to redemption but looks at the other side of the coin. The debt of sin was cancelled. Imagine you have committed a crime and get charged for it. Redemption is the part where someone bails you out, but it is important to note that someone can bail you out of prison and still hold a grudge against you. Now with God, we have been redeemed, meaning bail has been paid, and there has been a remission of sin - there is no grudge against us because He has completely forgiven us. Sins are remitted when the offender is treated as though the offence had never been committed.

Knowledge of the mystery of His will: the word "mystery" refers to the undisclosed truth. In Christ, we get unveiled. God has given us wisdom and insight through His Word and shown us His desire to bring to light all things to glorify Christ (see 1 Corinthians 2:12).

Inheritance: In Christ, we have everything we need for this time and eternity. As heirs and heiress, we get to benefit on Earth physically. Because we are in Christ, we become aligned to the blessings of Abraham (see 1 Corinthians 2:9, 1 Peter 1:4, Galatians 3:16, Galatians 3:29).

The Blessings from The Spirit

Sealing: When we become God's children, He places His mark of ownership on us, guaranteeing our eternal security. We belong to Him, and we will always belong to Him.

Guarantee of redemption for our bodies: Although we have mortal bodies, they will be redeemed one day. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee that when the day comes, our bodies will be glorified.

“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”
Romans 8:11 NKJV

