

## Through His Blood

Ephesians 1:7-12 Sunday AM, April 30, 2023

**Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 1:1–12** (NASB95) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, **To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus:** <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him <sup>10</sup> with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him <sup>11</sup> also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

Who wrote this letter? Paul, an **apostle of Christ Jesus**. I'm under His Name and authority and I come with His agenda—and this agenda is TOTALLY in line with the **will of God**. Who received the letter: others rooted in the same identity. **To the saints who are at Ephesus who are faithful in Christ Jesus**—they are identified by Christ, called out by Him, belonging with Him, identified by lives lived in faithful service to Him. There is NO QUESTION as to who calls the shots. Though sometimes weak or misguided, the faithful have faith—they trust in, believe in Christ—they find life, meaning, purpose, and responsibility with and under Christ. Does this describe you? Where have your thoughts centered on Christ this week? What about Christ has directed your thoughts, actions, and emotions? But there is more! All saints faithful in Christ Jesus are active recipients of God's goodness. <sup>2</sup> **Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**. God showers needed provision, hope, protection, and order in a world of chaos—indeed, true saints **have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places** all because of their identity with Christ. What are those blessings? They have been chosen **in Him before the foundation of the world**, and this choosing leads to a mission—He determines the parameters of their life—chosen **to be holy and blameless**. God MAKES holy through the work of Christ to make His righteousness ours, but then, by His Spirit, He makes us willing to obey Him—to keep His commandments. But Christians are not merely chosen--placed on God's side and given a job, but they are predestined to adoption as sons/ daughters through Christ. For hearts opened to value spiritual blessings, looking beyond what we see and experience here because we trust God's Word as certain, the response to receiving these blessings is praise to God. **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!** It truly is **to the praise of the glory of His grace, freely bestowed on us**. Church, praise the Lord for spiritual blessings in Christ!

### \*Hymn #203: And Can It Be

These spiritual gifts continue today! <sup>7</sup> **In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us**. There is a real transaction/payment. For what? For what you can't get rid of—stain on your record—your trespasses—according to GOD, not you, me, them. This is God's list—He paid/cancelled what was owed with His blood. IS THIS VALUABLE TO YOU? Well, it depends on how willing you are to acknowledge what He calls trespasses. It depends on what forgiveness/release/payment cancelling that stain is worth to you.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): The Precious Blood \*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: Agnus Dei Scripture: John 6:26–58

(NASB95) Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled." <sup>27</sup> "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal." <sup>28</sup> Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." <sup>30</sup> So they said to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?" <sup>31</sup> "Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.'" <sup>32</sup> Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven." <sup>33</sup> "For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world." <sup>34</sup> Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread." <sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst." <sup>36</sup> "But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe." <sup>37</sup> "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out." <sup>38</sup> "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." <sup>39</sup> "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day." <sup>40</sup> "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." <sup>41</sup> Therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him, because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven." <sup>42</sup> They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven?'" <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Do not grumble among yourselves." <sup>44</sup> "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day." <sup>45</sup> "It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me." <sup>46</sup> "Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father." <sup>47</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life." <sup>48</sup> "I am the bread of life." <sup>49</sup> "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died." <sup>50</sup> "This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die." <sup>51</sup> "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh." <sup>52</sup> Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves." <sup>54</sup> "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." <sup>55</sup> "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink." <sup>56</sup> "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him." <sup>57</sup> "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me." <sup>58</sup> "This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever."

### Offering: \*Doxology:

How does it all take place? What backs these spiritual blessings? The perfect wisdom of our God. In all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him <sup>10</sup> with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. Note the kind intention of God toward us summed up in Christ. God loves His fallen creation and acts on that love. Sing the power, planning, and providence of God which displays that glory of God in a way that you and I can be recipients of that love. Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love!

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love

**You may be seated.** Pastor Jahn finishes with the future glance of hope/desire that directs the goals and actions of true believers. In Him <sup>11</sup> also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. If truly born again, YOU receive an inheritance from God that allows you to eternally be on display bringing praise because of the work of His glorious love. And it's all for those who hope in Christ. Does it all make sense? NO, just contemplate the words of Jesus in our Scripture reading today. But hope in Christ involves working for the food which endures to eternal life which the Son of Man will give to you. Behold the Son, believe in Him for eternal life. Christ's flesh, broken for you is spiritual food—eat His flesh, drink His blood—abide in Him through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Keep learning what this means as listen to sermon, meditate on God's words, and live learning to hope in Christ alone!

### \*Hymn #466 (Red): Christ Liveth in Me

### Message: Through His Blood Ephesians 1:7-12

### \*Hymn #377: Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

### \*Prayer