

## Totally Secure

Ephesians 1:13-14 Sunday AM, May 7, 2023

**Prelude – Scripture: Ephesians 1:1–14** (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. <sup>13</sup> In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup> who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

Who wrote the letter? Paul, an **apostle of Christ Jesus**. I'm under His Name and authority and I come confidently with His agenda which 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. Though sometimes weak or misguided, the faithful have faith—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** us 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, they are predestined to adoption as sons/daughters through Christ. How is this possible? Because they have been redeemed—purchased by the blood of Christ, a cost sufficient for the otherwise impossible gift of forgiveness of our trespasses. And it is all tied to the mystery of God's will made known to us through Christ. What power God possesses to bring about all His holy will! As you contemplate these opening verses of Ephesians, all our hope centers in Christ Alone! Sing the sure hope and constant focus of the Christian!

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): In Christ Alone

Today, the blessings continue. Sealed in Christ with the Holy Spirit of promise! **THIS** is the result of listening to the message of truth and believing it—acting in line with it. A transaction takes place with God Himself providing the security, the receipt based on His trustworthy word. Church, sing the truth & believe it—either for the first time or as the testimony of a life looking to Christ for security with God. This is the **ONLY** place you can have your sins forgiven and be known as His beloved possession.

**\*Hymn (Powerpoint): His Forever \*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: Agnus Dei Scripture: John 14:1–31** (NASB95) "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me." <sup>2</sup> "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. <sup>4</sup> "And you know the way where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. <sup>7</sup> "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; for now on you know Him, and have seen Him." <sup>8</sup> Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, 'Show us the Father?' <sup>10</sup> "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. <sup>11</sup> "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. <sup>13</sup> "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. <sup>15</sup> "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. <sup>16</sup> "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; <sup>17</sup> *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. <sup>20</sup> "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." <sup>22</sup> Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. <sup>24</sup> "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. <sup>25</sup> "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. <sup>26</sup> "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. <sup>27</sup> "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. <sup>28</sup> "You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> "Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. <sup>30</sup> "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; <sup>31</sup> but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.

**Offering: \*Doxology:** All the benefits come because of Christ, but the Holy Spirit—the third person of the Trinity dwelling inside is the pledge of our inheritance—not only for what you receive now, but for what is to come. Don't live only for now. Live by faith in the Son of God all the way til you are with Him! It's about relationship. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. What does the Spirit do? Help you to live inside fellowship with the Father and the Son by trusting and obeying Him. He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him. The Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you. And why shouldn't we have peace when He has promised all this and is with us. Sing the security of the believer and contemplate it as pastor preaches.

**\*Hymn #275: I Belong to the King Message: Totally Secure Ephesians 1:13-14 \*Hymn #345: Blessed Assurance**

**The Lord's Table** Communion—fellowship with God. See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called sons/daughters of God. If you are His, take that identity and responsibility seriously, but also take time to praise the One who makes you secure in Him. What a treasure—not for the years of time alone, but for eternity!

**\*Hymn #511: Now I Belong to Jesus \*Prayer**