

# Claim God's Promise

“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. <sup>4</sup>For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love <sup>5</sup>He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup>to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves.

<sup>7</sup>In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup>that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. <sup>9</sup>And He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup>to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

<sup>11</sup>In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, <sup>12</sup>in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup>And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory.” - Ephesians 1:3-14

## Paul's Preview of Praise (vs. 3-10)

- Begins with a prelude that outlines where we're going
- Details the “spiritual blessings”
- Actually Paul is reminiscing about God's relationship with His people... in order that we will know we can count on Him!

## The PROMISE:

“...a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory.” - Ephesians 1:14

- The basis for this promise => God's Sovereignty  
“...according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will.” - Ephesians 1:11
- The bottom line of this promise => God's Glory  
“...in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory.” - Ephesians 1:12
- The process of the promise => Our Salvation  
“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.” - Ephesians 1:13

## The Seal:

“Having believed, you were **marked** in Him with a seal...” - Ephesians 1:13

- completion
- security
- ownership
- authenticity

## The Deposit:

“...a **deposit** guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory.” - Ephesians 1:14

- A two-fold symbol:
  1. A commercial transaction (earnest money)
  2. A personal relationship (engagement ring)
- A full understanding of “redemption”
  - Past redemption (Ephesians 1:7)
  - Present redemption (Romans 8:1-4)
  - Future redemption (Hebrews 9:28)
- The purpose of the deposit => God's glory

## What do we learn?

1. God has a plan, and He acts within it.  
“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?” - Numbers 23:19
2. God cares about His children (that's me!)  
“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” - 2 Peter 3:9
3. God promises big things.  
“By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered Him faithful who had made the promise.” - Hebrews 11:11
4. God's promises are dependable.  
“You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.” - Joshua 23:14
5. God's promises bring praise to Himself.

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- \_\_\_\_\_

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- The purpose of the deposit = God's \_\_\_\_\_!

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