

New Way To Be Human

Book of Ephesians

Main Idea || To be #blessed, there's nothing more we need
than the gospel.

Gospel #blessed

Book of Ephesians

- Paul: **summarizes** the gospel story & how it should **reshape** every part of our story.

Gospel story (ch 1-3)

|| **THEREFORE** ||

Our story (ch 4-6)

- Paul: calls to put on your new humanity to become new humans who live & love like Jesus.

A wide view of the gospel of grace:

For those who are **united** with Jesus: #blessed

*3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us** with every **spiritual blessing** in the heavenly realms because we are **united** with Christ.*

- The “**spiritual blessings**” we enjoy are the **eternal treasures** of personal reconciliation with God—and we enjoy them from the time we first trust in Jesus.

*4 Even before he made the world, God **loved us** and **chose us** in Christ to **be holy** and **without fault in his eyes**. 5 God decided **in advance** to **adopt us** into his own family by bringing us to himself **through** Jesus Christ. This is what he **wanted** to do, and it gave him great **pleasure**. 6 So we praise God for the **glorious grace** he has **poured out** on us who belong to his dear Son.*

PAST **BLESSING**.

- It gave God great pleasure to choose you as his own.

*7 He is so **rich in kindness and grace** that he purchased our **freedom** with the blood of his Son and **forgave** our sins. 8 He has **showered** his **kindness** on us, along with all **wisdom and understanding**.*

EVERYDAY **KINDNESS**.

- Everyday, my Father lavishes grace on me, constantly helping me more than I deserve.

*9 God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. 10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring **everything together** under the **authority** of Christ—everything in **heaven** and on **earth**. 11 Furthermore, because we are **united** with Christ, we have received an **inheritance** from God, ...*

FUTURE **INHERITANCE**.

- When I am joined to Jesus by faith, no matter what my social or financial status, I don't have to fear being "broke" in the future.

*12 God's **purpose** was that we **Jews** who were the first to trust in Christ would **bring praise and glory to God**. 13 And now you **Gentiles** have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as **his own** by giving you the Holy Spirit, ... 14...He did this so we would **praise and glorify him**.*

FOREVER **WORSHIP**.

- Now and forever, my purpose is to praise God who is most glorious.

How do I ensure these blessings reshape my life?

Never distort **why** these blessings are coming to you.

*3 ...every **spiritual blessing** in the heavenly realms*

*— because we are **united** with Christ.*

- They are coming to you because you are united with Jesus by your faith, not because you are living like Jesus by your faithfulness.

- They are **not** ending if or when we're losing everything else, we will **ALWAYS** have the infinite & never ending forever blessing of Jesus.

***Ephesians 3:20–21 (NLT)** 20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. 21 Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.*

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

1. Pastor Dan mentioned a few ways our culture seems to define “blessed”. What are some other ways you (or our culture) have defined #blessed?
2. Which of these gospel #blessings resonated with you most?
 - PAST **BLESSING**.
 - EVERYDAY **KINDNESS**.
 - FUTURE **INHERITANCE**.
 - FOREVER **WORSHIP**.
3. It's a constant battle to avoid distorting **why** these gospel blessings are coming to us according to Ephesians 1:3 :

***3 ...every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms**
— because we are **united** with Christ.*

- What's your reaction to the implications of vv1:3 listed here:
 - They are coming to you because you are united with Jesus by your **faith**, not because you are living like Jesus by your **faithfulness**.
 - They are **not** ending if or when we're losing everything else, we will **ALWAYS** have the infinite & never ending forever blessing of Jesus.