

### WARM-UP

- Recall a dangerous experience you had. What danger did you face and how were you spared?
- Do you make plans, and do you like sticking to them? Recall an instance explaining this.
- Who is the most generous person you know? What has he or she done for you?

**WORD** *<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love . . .* **EPHESIANS 1:3-4**

(Read also **EPHESIANS 1:5-10**.)

All human beings are sinful and fallen, deserving death and living in eternity apart from God. No matter how good we think we are, we cannot save ourselves. This is the bad news we all face.

But there is good news in Christ. It is the gospel. Because of God's grace, mercy, and love, He offers us salvation and *every spiritual blessing* in Christ. Today, let us study what the gospel is and grow in our understanding of the salvation we have received in Christ.

## 1 | God had a redemptive plan for all creation.

*... even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ...*

**EPHESIANS 1:4**

*Before the foundation of the world*, God's desire is for us to be *holy and blameless*. He did not decide to redeem us only after Adam and Eve sinned; our salvation is not an afterthought for God. God's love so abounds for us that He planned our salvation even before the creation of the world in Genesis 1 and He started executing it immediately after Adam and Eve had fallen. How does God's redemptive plan assure you of His love for you and the world? How should it affect the way we live?

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## 2 | God graciously gave His Son.

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ...*

**EPHESIANS 1:7**

God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for us and pay the price we should have paid. This is the center of God's gracious plan to save us from our sin, shame, and guilt. Put simply, the gospel is the good news that God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we should have lived, and died the death we should have died—in our place. On the third day, He rose from the dead, proving that He is the Son of

God. When and how did you hear the gospel? How did you respond to the riches of God's grace?

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### 3 | God redeemed us from sin.

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace . . .*

**EPHESIANS 1:7**

God's gracious act of rescue resulted in our redemption and forgiveness. Jesus gives the gift of salvation and forgiveness of sins to anyone who repents and believes in Him. When we have a change of heart and put our faith in what Jesus Christ already had done for us, we no longer have to pay for our sins and we no longer have to live in sin. We have been forgiven and made whole, redeemed for God's purpose. What is the importance of telling others about the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ? Why should we not keep this to ourselves?

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God's plan to save and redeem us includes blessing us. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and God's love for us, we have been blessed *with every spiritual blessing*. Paul writes that this includes being holy and set apart for Him, being adopted as sons and daughters through Jesus, and much more (Ephesians 1:4-14). This all-encompassing promise and blessing should affect all of our lives. We reap these benefits not because of anything we have done, but because of who God is and how good He is to us.

## APPLICATION

- What kind of life did you have before you were in Christ? Recall how you heard and responded to the gospel.
- What kind of life can we have in Christ? Take some time this week to meditate on Ephesians 1:3–4. Ask God to help you understand what it means to have *every spiritual blessing* in Christ.
- What do you think is an appropriate response to the gospel? How do you think you ought to live and how can you tell others about this good news?

## PRAYER

- Thank God for sending Jesus to die on the cross in our place. Thank God for His plan of redemption, Christ's sacrifice, and our salvation.
- Pray and ask God to help you join Him in His rescue mission to seek and save the lost. Pray that you would boldly proclaim the good news of the gospel.
- Pray for your relatives and friends to know and experience God's love, mercy, and grace.



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