



Never Forget

Oh how easy it is to forget what God has done for you and how He prepared eternal things for you since before the beginning of time! How often do you, all of a sudden, snap out of a worldly mental state and catch another glimpse of the real you?

The real you is what God made you when you joined His family.

The real you was envisioned by God long before you were born the first time, and it was cemented into eternity when you became born again. Never forget that God had His eyes on the real you before you were made, formed or created.

Ephesians 1 tells us:

Blessed be the God and Father

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of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: (Ephesians 1:3)

If you want this verse to impact you, you have to take a moment to forget the things of the world and then really center your thoughts on the things of the Word. Once you understand verse one above, you, too, will be saying "blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." God has already blessed you with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ. The

"heavenly places" refer to God's heaven, not the moon and stars that you see when you look up on a clear night. His heaven is past ours, and in His heaven, you'll find your own personal storehouse of spiritual blessings. God has given you an abundance of spiritual wealth that makes the deepest and richest gold mines in South Africa pale into insignificance. You're blessed, so bless God back.

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (Ephesians 1:4)

In His heaven, you'll find your spiritual blessings, which happen to be according to His choice of

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you to be in Him! That's right. God choose you before you were born because He knew that you would want Him. He did this long before this world ever was, so that you could be around long after this world is no more.

The standard of all the spiritual blessings in your personal, heavenly storehouse is God's choice of you!

Is that cool or what? God chose you so that He could have a holy and blameless family. Well, He knew that he was going to have a problem with some of His early family. Do you remember Lucifer and the battle in heaven? Eventually, one third of the angels sided with Lucifer and were all abolished from God's heaven. These fallen angels were cast down to this earth, where most of them remain. In order to craft the perfect living environment for His family, he had to ensure that everyone in eternity would be holy and without blame.

Now, that's where you come in. Once you joined God's family, He made you that way. Today, and forever, you are holy and without blame before God in love. You want to talk about something great. There it is. That's great, and that's real love.

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (Ephesians 1:5)

When here, it says that you were "predestined," it means, "read verse four." Going back to verse four, we know that God chose us because He knew that we would believe. That is the context of predestination. It does NOT mean that God picked you against your free will. It means, that since God knew you would believe, you were going to become one of His children through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ had to come on the

scene in order for this to happen, and He did. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church, and when you confess Him as your Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Romans 10:9)

You are immediately God's son or daughter. This is a really good thing because we are told that this is according to God's good pleasure. It is His will that this is happening.

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. (Ephesians 1:6)

How many times have you been led to believe that you were not

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accepted by God? For most of us, we probably lost count, but we've all gone through that. God's grace is what made His acceptance of us available. Not your works or religious activities, but God's grace! Many people seem to have a difficult time with this. Don't you! ***You are accepted in the beloved and that's that.*** Praise God for this wonderful truth. Without God's grace, His *favor* in our lives, we could NEVER be accepted. God's grace is unending. We are accepted.

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; (Ephesians 1:7)

"In whom" refers to, "in Christ." Christ is the "beloved" of verse six. Do you love Him? I do. He's God's beloved and He's mine too. Anyone who could make available

redemption [from the world and satan], and total and complete forgiveness of sins is due all my love. How about you? God wants Jesus Christ to be viewed as His beloved and ours too! Once again, grace sealed our "fate." I don't believe in fate, but here, I thought it would be fun to use that timeless word. Grace gave us eternity, and it removed the fear of sin and time from all who believe. That's RICH!

It is easy to forget what God has done for you and how He's prepared eternal things for you since before the beginning of time! But it is also possible to snap out of this forgetfulness and catch another glimpse of the real you! The real you is what God made you when you joined His family. ***The real you was envisioned by God long before you were born the first time,*** and it was anchored into eternity when

you became born again. Never forget that God had His eyes on the real you before you were made, formed or created. You are blessed with all spiritual blessings in God's heaven in Christ, you are chosen in Him and are holy and without blame before Him in love, you are God's son or daughter, by God's grace you are accepted in the beloved, by the riches of God's grace, you have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, and you have been forgiven of your sins - forever. That's the real you. Never forget it.

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown