

# Readings

## Scripture

<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 <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed 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 upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.  
 - Ephesians 1:3-10 (*English Standard Version*)

## Reflection

Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.  
 - Act 20:31-32 (*English Standard Version*)

Three particular notes sound right through this great doxology. First, from eternity to eternity God works all things according to his perfect plan. All history, all people, all that exists in heaven and on earth are included in his purpose. Past, present and future are all embraced in this doxology, and the work of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Secondly, that purpose is fulfilled in Christ, and thus in him every blessing that men and women can have is found. Thirdly, its goal is the very practical one, that God's people should live 'to the praise of his glorious grace.'  
 - Francis Foulkes, *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: Ephesians* (p. 54)

"My hope lives not because I am not a sinner, but because I am a sinner for whom Christ died; my trust is not that I am holy, but that being unholy, HE is my righteousness. My faith rests not upon what I am or shall be or feel or know, but in what Christ is, in what He has done, and in what He is now doing for me."  
 - Charles Spurgeon

# Sermon Outline

**In Him**  
 Ephesians 1:3-10

*The Theology of Tears*  
 Jeff Hooker

## When we are found in him...

### We are blessed (Ephesians 1:3)

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### We are chosen (Ephesians 1:4-6)

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### We are redeemed (Ephesians 1:7-8)

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### We are united (Ephesians 1:9-10)

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## Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What are some things that people find their identity in besides Christ?
- In your own words, how would you describe the "blessings in Christ"? How do they relate to praising God?
- Knowing you are adopted, how will you view yourself and God differently?
- What do you want to change in your lifestyle to live for the praise of God's glory this week?
- What are steps you can take this week to be more united as a church?