

NOTES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: 7/6-7 2020

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Ephesians 1:8-14*

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 ptwente@gmail.com

7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS:

WE WILL CONTINUE IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS!

AS OF LAST WEEK - New Meeting Numbers:

NOT ANTICIPATING ANY MORE CHANGES IN THE NEAR FUTURE;

Type in the <https://> for the meeting you want to attend: If you have any trouble with logging in on the website – download the Zoom.us app from the internet, sign in, hit “join meeting” and enter the meeting number

87858644763 for Monday night;

85309150746 for Tuesday morning.

7 PM MONDAY NIGHT MEETINGS: (This is new and different from previous meetings)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763> for Monday night 7pm meeting # **878 5864 4763**; hit join, then when asked, give your name. The need for a password has been removed!

7 AM TUESDAY MORNING MEETINGS: (This is new and different from previous meetings)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746> for Tuesday morn 7am meeting # **853 0915 0746**; hit join, when asked, give your name. The need for a password has been removed!

FOR PHONE: (please do not use more than one device at a time, such as your computer and your phone, as the feedback between the two devices causes echoing noises, which are disturbing.)

One tap mobile +16699006833,

=1817880051# US (San Jose) +13462487799, +1817880051# US (Houston)

Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 301 715 8592 US +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 929 436 2866 US (New York) +1 253 215 8782 US
7 pm Mon Meeting ID: 817 880 051 7 am Tues Meeting ID: 444504400
Find your local number: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/817880051>

OPENING PRAYER

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Ephesians Chapter 1:8-14*

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored, He has loosed the fateful lightening of His terrible swift sword. His truth is marching on.

[Chorus] Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

*I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps;
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence with the dim and flaring lamps,
His day is marching on. [Chorus]*

*In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, with a glory
in His bosom that transfigures you and me: As He died to make men
holy, let us live to make men free, While God is marching on.*

[Chorus] (2 x)

Amen. Amen.

Ephesians Chapter 1:7-14.

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Eph 1:8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

Eph 1:9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

Eph 1:10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

Eph 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Eph 1:12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Eph 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Eph 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Nine Spiritual blessings listed in these verses - Eph. 1:3-14 - This great summary of blessings and detail of God's plan is given to us here are the beginning of the letter. Paul will refer to it again and again as he goes through Ephesians.

He has chosen us!

He has adopted us!

He has accepted us!

He has redeemed us!

He has forgiven us!

He has revealed God's will to us!

He has made us an inheritance!

He has sealed us!

He has given us a guarantee of eternal life!

Eph 1:7 In Him we have (the-only one of its kind) ***redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace***

- “***redemption***”, using a perfect tense that is denoting or relating to continuing action –The idea is, “having redemption”. It is active today in our lives; an abiding fact; Past, present, and future! It never changes. It covers the past, the present and the future.
- He uses one of three New Testament words, regarding ***redemption***--not the word to redeem, to buy, pay a price, at the marketplace; or to pay the price and take out a slave for your own use, but he used *apolutrosis*, which means to liberate by the paying of a ransom **in order to set a person free**.
- The ***redemption*** we have, and we are having, is that we were slaves to sin. Because of what God did before the worlds were formed, the fact that He chose us in Him, all of this, then Christ coming, buying us out of the slave market of sin **with the express purpose of setting us free from that sin**.
- First, we are accepted in the Beloved, in ***In Him we have*** (or are having presently) ***(the) redemption***, which is setting us free from the slavery of sin, never to be taken back to it again! He says that in the context of the ***forgiveness of sins***. Using the specific word for ***forgiveness***, (*aphesis*, remission – literally sending away our sin, just like the “scapegoat” in, *Lev. 16, the Day of Atonement*). (***Psa 103:12***) *As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us*.
- That is “***the redemption***”, buying us out of the slave market, once and for all, never to be enslaved to sin again!
- That has taken place ***according to the riches of His grace***. The **abundance of His grace** He has bestowed upon us to produce ***redemption*** and ***forgiveness***.

Eph 1:8 which He made (caused) ***to abound*** (*perisseuo* – super abound, more than could be imagined!) ***toward us in all wisdom and prudence*** (understanding),

- His grace! It is super abounded, all that you could imagine. He has “overdosed us on grace **which is our life!**” There is more than we need, more than you can ever apply to your life! It is the grace that sends away our sins so that they will be forgotten and never be seen again, bringing us out of the slavery to our sins, **setting us free, never to enslave us again!**

- The riches of His grace have super abounded ***toward us in all wisdom and prudence*** in order that we might have this insight and then the standing, stepping into the ***mystery*** of God's ***will*** and His gracious purpose!
- He knows who we are! He knows the load of sin we had; what kind of ***redemption*** we needed! He knows it could only be brought to pass in time in the death of His Son, in His being our substitute, so that He could be both *just* and the *justifier* of the ungodly. (***Rom 3:26b***) *to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*
- He did it in such a way, knowing us completely, nothing we would ever do that would surprise Him, that He overdosed us on grace! There is more than we could ever need, ever use, that He has lavished upon us in His Son! What a great, great plan!!

Eph 1:9 *having made known to us the mystery of His will* (God's revelation of His plan and of His purposes for you and for me and for the church. He's made known to us the mystery of His will), ***according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,*** (***Rom 16:25***) *Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began*

- Here is the next blessing, ***having made known to us. the mystery*** (not previously revealed until He bring it into the open to believers, knowing things that we could never know apart from the revelation that God has given us in His word). It is not mysterious to you and me anymore, but it is to the unbeliever. It is not something we have learned in school because of our intellect, but something that God has made real to our hearts. It is His work.
- He has ***made known to us. The mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself!***
- The simplest Spirit filled Christian who has the Bible and believes it, knows more about life, know more about how we got here. More about eternity, more about anything, than the smartest people in the world, all put together on a panel.
- Because of the Bible, we have answers to the great questions in our life. How did we get here? Why are we here? Why were we created? For fellowship with God! Why is the world the mess that it is? Nothing so satisfies as the fall of man in Genesis Chapter Three. Nothing is so perfect a picture, an explanation of the world we live in every day. How can a man be saved? Why is there death? Not just what happens after death but why death exists at all? Who addresses it? What religion addresses death's origin or its cause?

- Many things that we Christians know and have answers for that we would not know and have answers for, apart from God and a relationship with God. Only God has answers for us in His word.
- As God's people, we are a mystery knowing people. That is a great blessing because we have peace in our life that only comes with knowing the mysteries. The mysteries of God's purposes and plans!
- *...of His "will"* is not the word for thought or planning. It is emotion. What this is telling us throughout, is that He wants us!
- He wanted us so much He was willing to pay a price that is unimaginable to us, to watch His own perfect, sinless, eternal Son, covered with the sins of mankind hang on the cross. Then for Him to fire His own wrath down on His Son, to make propitiation satisfying His own just terms, reconciling us back to Him! He wanted us! He has done all this *according to His own good pleasure*, to the *pleasure of His own will*.

according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself, (2Ti 1:9) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

- Just think of what we believe today! A troubled world, violence, war, addiction, immorality, of people searching and groping, trying to find freedom! Trying to find what freedom is! Does it mean we are free to sin? To have whatever sexual lifestyle that we want? To take whatever drug we want? To smoke and drink whatever? For freedom to get into another bondage?
- But think of the wonderful things we believe, as we sit here today? I am looking forward to the future! Is the world looking forward to it? I am looking forward because I know what is coming, Who is coming! I may not want to go through everything between now and then, but I know where we are ending up! I have the Living Hope in Christ Jesus! Just think of what we believe!!!

Eph 1:10 that in the dispensation (steward) of the fullness of the times (Gal 4:4) But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

He might gather together in one (1Co 3:22) whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours.

- So that in the dispensation of the fulness of times, when it all comes together, in that glorious day, when we stand before throne of God, complete in Christ Jesus, with the whole body of the church and the redeemed, that all will be there in Christ. That He will be all and in all, King of Kings, Lord of

Lords! And He will gather, unified together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him. Every knee shall bow.

- God has provided mankind in Christ with an identity to unify around that is greater than all the things that would divide us. There are a lot of things that divide mankind around this world. We watch it on the news every day. What could be greater than the million and one things that divide us every day. What could unify us?
- What single great thing could have the power to unify such diversity? **The cross!** Coming to know Him. Then when we come to know Him, it doesn't matter where we've come from, what nation, what background, what natural abilities or lack of abilities, none of that matters, once a person knows the Lord and loves the Lord and then loves the body of Christ. We are unified around Him. Only that cross is bigger than all of things that divide mankind!

all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on

earth—in Him. (Col 1:16, 20) *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

[20] and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

- Verses 4 - 10, take us by the Spirit from the mists of **eternity past**, before the worlds were formed, to the glory of an **eternity future**, immeasurable.
- He has taken us from the place where God worked out in His counsels, our salvation and chose us for Himself before the worlds were even formed to the day in the ***in the dispensation*** (steward) ***of the fullness of the times*** (*kairos*, occasion, specific season or at the proper time). He is watching all of human history and time flow out in regard to His own plan, where we are going to stand forever in His presence, in the future, in the light of His glory. He has covered all of that in several verses!
- There is **something in God's heart of a season that's coming**, that **marks off all the periods of time**, when we're going to stand before Him in **glory, redeemed, forgiven, adopted, as His own children, chosen before the foundation of the world, standing there to the glory of His grace.** He wants it that way. His emotions are involved!
- Whatever is going to happen in this world, according to God's plan, is going to happen. All the nations of the world are going to fail. Man is not going to have hope anywhere on this planet. The Rapture of the church is going to come. The Great Tribulation period; The Antichrist; The return of Jesus in glory at the Battle of Armageddon; A 1,000-year reign on earth from

Jerusalem! Then the last uprising, heaven and earth fleeing away, existing no more! The Great White Throne judgment! Then in *Rev. 21*, He creates a *new heaven and a new earth!* No more sin! No more sorrow. No more death. No more suffering. No more pain. No more tears!

- He finally has it all His way! - *in the dispensation of the fullness of the times*. The day is going to come when we are going to stand before Him, sinless, pure, enjoying the fulness of the things we are talking about! And know this! In the ages to come, we are still going to be learning! (*Eph 2:7*) *that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*
- You walk out of here, feeling like I do, thinking, **I got part of that**, Lord! But I do not have a compartment in my intellect or in my heart **big enough to hold all** of what I think You are saying! However, I know that is okay, not to understand all if it now because Your word says we will be shown *the exceeding riches of Your grace in the ages to come!*
- There is a measure of understanding His blessings for you and for me today, that we are to embrace and take hold of.
- He is working all this out. He has made known to us of certain things *that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.* Hallelujah!

He has made us an inheritance!

Eph 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will (thelema - emotion), (Isa 46:10) Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'

- The seventh blessing is that we have been given is an inheritance in the Kingdom of God.
- He has given us our *inheritance*. We are *predestined*. That is why it says (*1Pe 1:4*) *to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you*, because He knows you are going to get there!
- He would not bother reserving it if He were wondering if you were going to make it. You are going to make it! You are going to be there. It is reserved for you, for us!
- We are *predestined* (*pro orizo*- marked out our horizon) to be there! One of them is stepping into the inheritance that He has worked out for you and me

in *the counsel of His own will*. He did not meet us, needing our help. He has done it all. What He does want is for us to believe!

- We sit here and listen and say I do not know, man! I know that is hard to believe. That is the problem! The problem is not that it is not true. The problem is not on God's end.
- The problem is nobody has ever loved us that way before. No one has ever offered us, even way less, with no strings attached, let alone all of this with no strings attached! Peter says (**2Pe 3:18** *but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.* We need to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- In the ages to come, we are still going to be embracing it! In the ages to come, we're going to look up, seeing the Lamb that was slain and fall down, saying Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come, and throw our *crowns before the throne!*
- Every time we look at Him, we are going to see a facet of His love, His beauty, and His power that we have never seen before! It doesn't fade away. Every time we look up at Him again, we see something we have never seen, because He is infinite! That will be something, won't it?
- He has worked all of that out, ***according to the counsel of His own will, His own emotion.*** He wants us. He has done it! No one can interfere with it. The Father has planned it in eternity past. The Son has stepped into time and made it a reality. We have received ***redemption, forgiveness through His blood.***

Eph 1:12 – The Glorification of Christ that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

- We should live and behave ourselves in such a manner that His rich grace might be magnified and appear glorious and worthy of the highest praise! Our glorifying God should be ours in all that we do!

He has sealed us!

Eph 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after (when) you heard the word of truth, the gospel (Good News) of your salvation; in whom also, having believed,

- It tells us this. **1) Having heard, 2) having believed, 3) you were sealed!** That is the gospel! Having heard, it says, the Gospel, the Good News. The good news is Christianity. Christianity is “done”! Christianity is not “do”! All the “doing” is done! God has done all the “doing”! We may think we

have got to finish up the “doing”. That would be a terrible religion! The “doing” is done!

you were sealed (ownership) ***with the Holy Spirit of promise, (2Co 1:22)*** *who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*

- The eighth blessing! ***Sealed!*** The Bible says we have been ***sealed with the Holy Spirit.*** When we came to know the Lord, God’s Holy Spirit, came into our life. When He came into our life, it is His seal. We have been created in the image of God; the very image of God has come inside us by the Spirit of God. Because of the presence of the Holy Spirit within my life, it is God saying, this person is ***sealed.*** You are My property!
- Having heard and what you heard was the Good News, then ***having believed,*** having trusted Him, at that point, ***you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.***
- When you were saved, one of the things the Holy Spirit did, was that He ***sealed*** you until the day of redemption. When you got saved, you were not saying okay, Lord, I am ready to be sealed, but rather, I cannot believe You loved me! Can I really come to heaven, Oh Lord? Please forgive me! That was your theology at that point. The Holy Spirit produced that sealing in you.
- No one comes without the Spirit working in his life, which is one of the things the Holy Spirit did, you were not even aware of it at all. He then baptized you into the mystical body of Christ.
- It took us a while to find that that had actually happened. One of the other things that the Holy Spirit did at that point, when you were saved, at that instant, was that ***you were sealed*** to the day of redemption by the Holy Spirit of promise!
- Signed, sealed, and delivered: That was very common years ago, when a transaction or contract was settled, the parties would sign the papers. Then there was a seal, a wax seal that was put on it. One copy was kept at the bank. The other copy went to the parties involved. That was called, “signed, sealed, and delivered”.
- It is saying here that when you received Christ as your Savior, your salvation was signed, sealed, and delivered! It is done! He has done everything!
- In those days, when shipping something, you put a wax seal on it. That wax seal did several things. It said that there was an official decision that was made about destination. On the seal, it told of ownership and the seal guaranteed that if anybody messed with it, they were going to be brought to terms. So, it guaranteed security and safety. ***(2Co 1:21-22)*** *Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, [22] who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*

- That is the same thing in our lives. We have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. That means there is **an official deal**. It is done! It **guarantees our destination** and **it guarantees our safety** as we are getting there! We have been sealed.
- The seal that Pilate put on the tomb of Jesus, in *Matthew 27*, was not allowed to be broken. Roman law was that if someone broke that seal, Rome would find that person and crucify him. You did not break that seal!
- You have been sealed by a loving, heavenly Father! And Satan cannot break that seal! He can mess with your mind. He can make you worry. He can cause you to doubt. But he cannot break that seal!
- The Holy Spirit has indwelt you. You may grieve Him. You may quench Him, but He is not going anywhere. He is not into time sharing, so you do not have to worry about being possessed! He's Almighty God!

He has given us a guarantee of eternal life!

Eph 1:14 who is the guarantee (down payment, earnest) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

- After we heard the Gospel and believed, God gave us the Holy Spirit as proof of His intention to complete our redemption.
- The ninth blessing is that we have the guarantee or earnest of our inheritance until the redemption. The **Holy Spirit in my life is the earnest money** that speaks of the day, the **guarantee that I will one day be in heaven! One day He is going to deliver us!**
- I know I have the **guarantee** that one day I am going to stand on that glassy sea, and I am going to praise my Lord, face to face. You know how I know it is true? Because the Holy Spirit is in my life.
- **...the guarantee of our inheritance ...**It is the **guarantee**, or earnest, a word used when you have to put down a deposit, indicating your earnestness about your completing the transaction. It is the first installment of completing the transaction. The “Earnest Money Deposit” is a part today of all Real Property Sales Agreements in California and other states.
- This Holy Spirit, the way He has come, and He sealed you until the day of redemption, is the **guarantee** of your **inheritance**. It is the first installment proving that the rest of the transaction is going to take place.
- **Guarantee...**The Apostle Paul was inspired to use this word, *arrhabon*, which still to this day stands for **an engagement ring** in the Greek culture. It meant, first installment here, but the idea is **these things are happening according to His will**.

- Wonderfully, the Holy Spirit, who has taken up residence in us, is telling us that we are the Bride of Christ! We are engaged! The groom is coming soon! He is going to blow the trumpet and carry us across the threshold before this world goes crazy. Jesus does not beat up the bride before the honeymoon. There is none of that!
- We are His bride! He has instilled in us this measure of grace that is a wonderful overdose! He caused us to believe things by revealing them to our will, letting us know that we are *predestined* to enter into an *inheritance* that He has for us that He has worked out in the *counsel of His* own *will to the praise of His glory!*
- This plan, having heard and having believed, has become real to us in that He has *sealed* us now *with the Holy Spirit*. It is signed, sealed, and delivered! The deal is done!
- That sealing of the Holy Spirit is the engagement ring that the groom has given to us, saying the wedding feast is coming! The wedding day is coming!!

OUR CHALLENGE:

- As these verses unfold, we see God's love for us is so great that it is almost unbearable. Can that really be true? Again, there is a challenge, we are growing in these things, but is there anything in us today large enough to conceive it all, in our minds, in our hearts?
- **We don't have a compartment or a file big enough, just to say, okay, now I've Ephesians 1 down! We're growing in grace. We're growing in the knowledge of it.** We're going to appreciate this more next week, than we did today. As you sit alone with this. **It's going to be more real to you.**
- But this is the challenge! **You need to believe this is His will. You need to believe He loves you this much! You need to believe that. You need to take hold of the fact what God the Father thinks of you.** He thought of you before the worlds were formed. He enacted a plan that God the Son stepped into human time and took on human skin.
- He bought you permanently out of the slave market, by super abounding you with grace, according to His own wisdom and His own understanding. And He has caused us to believe these things. He has brought our minds in the revelation of these things so that we would know He has predestined us to an inheritance. Then He sends the Holy Spirit to make it real.

- You are not going to fully enjoy that **until you spend time alone with Him, saying, Lord, I want to know, is this real for me? Is this really for me?**
- Can I step out here and really believe you? We are never going to enjoy the truth of these things unless we are willing to step out of the boat onto the water. We have to be willing in the storms of life to say, Lord, if that's You, bid me to come unto You. And you will hear Him say, come, come!
- If you are struggling with these things, get alone with the Lord today and just say, **Lord, I want to believe that You love me that much, but I am so messed up. If this is really You, speak to me. If it is, Lord, bid me come to You on the water.** Jesus said, **"Come"**
- **And you listen in your heart. You hear Him say, come! Come to Me! Come to Me! Because these things are filled with wonder.**
- These are things in the ages to come we will still be blossoming into. We will always be, being conformed into His image and never arriving, because He is infinite, and we are finite, even in the ages to come!
- What will we do with it today? If we can take an inch of it today, let us take an inch of it we can take one step into today, let us take one step into it!
- If we don't understand the things that He puts here in the first three chapters, we'll never understand, then how to live them out practically in the last three chapters because every time we make a mistake we will be condemned. We'll get discouraged, wiped out!
- **We need to realize we are in Christ. We are secure!** There are powers unimaginable to us in the Trinity, that have secured who we are; that have placed a mark upon us; that have set this into motion before time began; that paid complete redemption, complete forgiveness, signed, sealed, and delivered!
- The world we live in is falling apart. Get alone with Jesus! Get alone with Jesus so if the days come **when there is no economy**. If the days come when **there is no food** on the table. If the days come before He gets us out of here, **that are extremely tough**, we need to be able to sit alone with these things.
- **And say, Lord, in this darkest day I see Your light. I see a cross! I see Your love for me in Your Son. I see what You have done. And Lord my heart is firm. It is fixed on You, Oh, God! It is fixed on You! Let's pray**

Closing Prayer:

SUMMARY- Benefits/Application:

This is one of the most profound summaries of what God has already done for everyone who put their faith in the finished work of Christ Jesus on the cross, resurrection, and ascension!

Nine Spiritual blessings listed in these verses - Eph. 1:3-14

He has chosen us!

He has adopted us!

He has accepted us!

He has redeemed us!

He has forgiven us!

He has revealed God's will to us!

He has made us an inheritance!

He has sealed us!

He has given us a guarantee of eternal life!

Have you truly taken ownership of all these wonderful, awesome blessings, especially during really difficult times and situations in your life?

Suggestions for the Coming Week:

- **Read the entire Ephesians Chapter One each day** (takes only a few minutes to read the 23 verses)