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Nine Eternal Blessings from the Trinity Reserved for Believers

Introduction

This great passage opens with a eulogy. It is not a word for the dead but a word about the living. The Greek used here is *eulogia*, from which we get our word eulogy. It literally means "to speak well" of someone. Jesus will announce the joy of our work in heaven and will reward the faithful with "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm in Christ," v. 3b. These spiritual benefits are carefully laid out in 1:4-14 as elements of salvation provided by the three persons of the Godhead as nine eternal blessings for all believers.

I. What God the Father Has Done For Us! 1:4-6

1. He has chosen us, v. 4. The word "chose" is the Greek *eklego*, from which we get the English word "elect." This is what is called the doctrine of election. God chose to send His Son to die for us in order that we might be saved, 1 Tim 2:4. He chose us even before we chose Him, Rom 5:6-11.
2. He has predestined us, v. 5. This is the Greek word *proorizo*, which means to mark out or plan something before hand. It is found only four times in the New Testament Romans 8:29, 30; Eph 1:5, 11. Once you respond to God's choosing you, He has a plan for your life.
3. He has made us "acceptable," v. 6. The Greek word here is *charitoo*, which means to "bestow grace," and it is a form of the word *charis*, meaning "grace." It is used eleven times in Ephesians; see 1:6, 7; 2:5, 7, 8; 3:2, 7, 8; 4:7, 29; 6:24. As used here it indicates when we respond to God's invitation we are an object of His mercy and grace.

End of First Stanza

"... to the praise of the glory of His grace," v. 6a

II. What God the Son Has Done For Us! 1:7-12

1. He has redeemed us, by His own precious blood shed for us on the cross of Calvary, v. 7. Redemption is the Greek *apolutrosis*, meaning "to loose," or "set free." Redemption is an Old Testament concept and is from the word *ga'al*, the basic meaning is to set free. The one who provides redemption is called the *go'el*, or redeemer. A *go'el* could redeem property, people, or reputation.

2. He has revealed His perfect will to us, vv. 8-9. God reveals His perfect will to His people. He reveals it through His Word, through the Holy Spirit, through prayer, through circumstances, through godly leaders, and supernatural revelations.
3. He has restored our inheritance, vv. 11-12. Every believer has received a guaranteed inheritance. We become joint heirs with the Son of God to all things that belong to Him, Rom 8:16-17. This means that we have access to everything that belongs to Jesus. We know that everything that is the Father's also belongs to the Son. Therefore, everything that belongs to the Father and the Son, also belongs to all believers.

End of Second Stanza

" . . . to the praise of His glory," v. 12b

III. **What God the Holy Spirit Has Done for Us! 1:13-14**

1. He quickens (convicts) us, v. 13a . It is impossible to be saved without the conviction of the Holy Spirit. You cannot be educated into salvation, you can't inherit salvation, you can't work for salvation, you can only be drawn by the Holy Spirit. A person hears the message of the Word of God, then the Holy Spirit convicts you of sin and convinces you that Christ is your only hope, Acts 4:12, and He brings life out of death, see 2:1-3.
2. He has sealed (protected) us, v. 13b. Seals appear in Scripture as marks of ownership, evidence of a completed transaction, as a mark of authenticity, and as a mark of security. Believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise of the final confirmation of our salvation. We are saved at the moment of our commitment to Jesus, Rom 10:9-13, we are saved every moment from that point onward. We will be saved fully, finally, and forever at that day of His coming, Heb 7:25
3. He has given us a "down payment," on our future inheritance, v. 14. Actually the Greek word *arrabon* means "the first installment," of a promised inheritance, which in 1:14 is translated "guarantee." But, *arrabon* also has another possible meaning that also is a sort of down payment. It also is the word for an engagement ring. How meaningful and thrilling to learn that the Holy Spirit is the "engagement ring" given to the Bride of Christ, the church, as a promise "until the redemption of the purchased possession!"

End of Third Stanza

" . . . to the praise of His glory," v. 14b