

# Thankfulness: A View From Ephesians

*Ephesians 1:3-14*

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ELDER ED LEE | Nov 24-26, 2017

What are the top 3 things you are thankful for?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Ephesians 1: 3-14**

<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 He predestined us for adoption to Himself 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. <sup>11</sup> In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup> In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

**Vs 4-** God has chosen us!

**Vs 7-** God has redeemed us!

**Vs 7-** God has forgiven us!

**Vs 8-** God has lavished the riches of His grace upon us!

**Vs 11-** God has given us an inheritance!

**Vs 13-** God has sealed us with the Holy Spirit.

What is the common thread that runs through all of these verses?

God

***Ephesians 2:4-5a***

*"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ."*

We are who and what we are because of what God has done!

God has raised us to new life!

## **Ephesians 4:31-32**

*<sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

Can an unforgiving heart experience Christian Thanksgiving?

In view of the new life that God has given us, what should be the focus of our Thanksgiving celebrations?

*"Let me encourage you not to allow this Thanksgiving to come and go without taking inventory. Biblical gratitude isn't something that should pass from our minds with the passing of a season. It's an attitude, a God-focused response to circumstances that should pervade each moment of each day of each year." (John MacArthur)*