

The Unblushing Promises of God



Big Idea Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Ephesians 1:3-14



Big Idea

God is the primary actor in our lives. His purpose for us is conformity to his image, and he works in and for us, to this end, no matter where we are at, if we are willing to accept him.

After the standard greetings, Paul immediately launches into what you might call this outburst of praise that span at least verses 3-14, with an exuberance and gratitude that is indicative of one who has tasted the richness of God.

Observations

In Christ

- To be “in Christ” is to be united with Christ, it is to be grafted into Christ, it is to submit to the Lordship of Christ.

The Triune of God in Action

- From eternity to eternity, we see the deliberate action of the Triune God in this text, and by extension our lives.

The Lavishness of God’s Grace

- The generosity of God, which is his nature, is all over this text. We can literally be a thousand times worse, and yet our sins, in that state, are no match for his grace and mercies

The Purpose of God

- The point of all the promises is that we “should be holy and blameless before him.”

Implications

- Savior and Lord: How seriously do we take our apprenticeship to Christ?
- Hope: The Already and Not Yet: No matter where you are and what you are facing, your end is already set, which is union with the Triune God.
- Identity: A Beloved Child of God: Let this deliberate willing and planning of God reassure your heart that He wants you; that you are his beloved Child
- Humility: In light of the extravagant love of God, the proper response is that of a posture of humility.
- The Greatest Opportunity: You have been invited into a life of union with the Triune God, an invitation of deep interpersonal friendship with the Triune God



Homework

- Which one of the following truths from Eph 1:3-14 would you like to embrace more? Pick one, pray and reflect on it throughout the next week at least 3 times a day
 - Before the foundations of the world, God thought of you and decided you are a good idea and so he created you (verse 4)
 - It is both the pleasure of God and His loving planning to see you adopted as his own (verse 5).
 - Grace (the empowerment to be united with the Triune God) is always available to you (verse 6 & 7)
 - God lavishes forgiveness on us and deliverance from sins that have hounded us (verse 7 & 8)
 - You have been given the privilege of insight into the mysteries of his will, his plan, which includes your union with the Triune God (verses 8-10)
 - All the above is done “in Christ”, and through him so that. You can have union with God, here and now.
- Cultivate the habit of turning the monologue in your mind to a dialogue with God.
 - Engage God as you would a friend. This can be hard at first and you will forget many times, but keep at it, with His help. Lift up to him your fears and anxieties. Celebrate your joys with Him. Let no part of your life be separate from him