Pastor: Jonathan Rayder   Date: 01/03/2021

Sermon Title: **"BLESSED"**

Ephesians 1:1-14

- The Book of Ephesians is a letter, written to believers to help make them more aware of their position in Christ
- In ONE body, in ONE accord, we are unified in Christ
  - When I see who I am in Christ, my relationship with other people (who see who they are in Christ) improves
  - We become so focused on who we are in Christ that we DON'T have the time to get sidetracked with our personal pet peeves
- DON'T take our togetherness in Christ for granted & DON'T let anything come in between a harmonious relationship to other believers
- Because of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ we're rich (we've inherited a HUGE spiritual endowment)
- "In heavenly places" appears 4 other times in this short Epistle
- ALL the splendors & wonders, which are Christ's in the heavenly places are afforded to us as believers & followers!
  - That means, when hardships come, ALL of God's grace & ALL of God's loving assistance are at our disposal
- The idea of Believers being blessed is really the springboard, which Paul uses to then unfold several of the reasons why …
  1. We are CHOSEN
     - While I was wicked & despicable, before I ever chose God ..God chose me
  2. We are HOLY & BLAMELESS
     - God, when He looks at us, NOW (after we've accepted the free gift of salvation), God only sees His Son's righteousness
  3. We are ADOPTED
     - Because of Jesus, we're God's precious children
  4. We are REDEEMED
     - The debt our sin deserved has been paid in full by Jesus (you could say that our sin was imputed to Christ)
  5. We are FORGIVEN
     - NO matter the depths of depravity we've delved into, Jesus' redeeming work offers us Forgiveness
  6. We have OBTAINED AN INHERITANCE
     - Today, we only have a fraction of the true blessing that our inheritance promises, there's so much more to come
  7. We have been SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
     - Until the day we receive our full inheritance, believers have been pledged (a deposit has been put down on our behalf)