

Title: "BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST"

Text: Ephesians 1

(I) UNDERSTANDING WHAT IT MEANS TO "BLESS GOD"

1. "Blessed be..."
2. To find the right and appropriate words to praise and honour God
3. The quest of all speakers/teachers

*"The Preacher sought to find acceptable words... words of truth.
The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given
by One Shepherd." Ecclesiastes 12:10-11*

(II) THE APOSTLE PAUL AS AN EXAMPLE

1. A preacher
2. A wise servant of God
3. A scholar of the Scriptures
4. He learns from Jesus the Shepherd

(III) THE BLESSINGS GOD HAS SO GRACIOUSLY GIVEN TO US

1. Deep insight as to the kind of blessing God has chosen to bless us with
 - a) These blessings were planned by God Himself
 - b) These blessings are so glorious they are described as being "in the heavenly places"
 - c) These blessings are of eternal value
 - d) These blessings are made possible "In Christ"
2. Deep appreciation of the blessings we have in the Lord Jesus Christ

Five are highlighted:-

- a) God's grace (Ephesians 1:6, 7)
 - i) Glorious

- ii) Rich
- iii) Abounding

- b) Knowledge of God's will (**Ephesians 1:8-9**)

- c) Redemption and its wondrous ramifications (**Ephesians 1:7**)

- d) Sonship (**Ephesians 1:5**)

- e) The Holy Spirit
 - i) Seal (**Ephesians 1:13**)
 - ii) Guarantee (**Ephesians 1:14**)

(IV) ESSENCE OF BLESSING GOD

- 1. To acknowledge God**
- 2. To appreciate God**
- 3. To ascribe glory to God**