

The Truth of Scripture

Reading--Ephesians 1:1-14

When I was in elementary school, it was common in gym class to pick teams for baseball, basketball, etc. I would wait anxiously as each captain chose who they wished to be on the team. If athletic, you were picked first. If not, you had to wait...and wait. Essentially you were judged based on your ability and chosen accordingly. Thankfully God does not work this way. He has a chosen team called "The Body of Christ" and anyone can join. The work of the Father, Son, and the Spirit has made all of this possible.

After stating the believer has been "*blessed with all spiritual blessings...*" in verses 4 and 5, we learn God chose the Body of Christ and has "*predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself...*" The idea of adoption being, that we have been given a very special position as sons of God and have been placed into God's family.

This brings us to the work of the Lord Jesus Christ who has made this adoption process possible because we have been redeemed by His blood. How wonderful it is to know our sins have been forgiven because of the "*riches of His grace.*"

Once the unsaved person trusts Christ for their salvation, God seals that individual with His Spirit. The Spirit is "an earnest of our inheritance" or a down payment of **the future hope** we have in Christ, which is the final step of the adoption process—the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:23).

This team is open to anyone. Your athletic ability does not matter, and God will accept you no matter your circumstances. Simply believe the gospel—Christ died for your sins, was buried, and rose again (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Once you do this, congratulations, you are on the team!

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Come join us for Sunday School at 9:30 AM and Morning Service at 11 AM.