

SAINTS, BE ENCOURAGED (PART I)

ACTS 16:40, EPHESIANS 1:1-6

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Why did Paul encourage the saints at Philippi? Maybe he wanted them to know their new identity in Christ.

YOU ARE BLESSED. Since Christ lives in you, available to you is an intimate relationship with Him. Because of His life in us, we can enjoy, in part, the blessings that we will experience in full with Him in heaven, even while we are still in our earthly bodies. (Acts 16:40, Ephesians 1:1-3, fn 1:3, John 15:11, fn 15:11, Colossians 1:9-13, I Corinthians 2:9-16, fn 2:15, 16, I Peter 1:1-9, fn 1:3-6) *Have you experienced a “heavenly blessing” in your time with Christ? Explain*

YOU ARE CHOSEN. God chose us in Christ even before He created the world. Our salvation is completely because of His grace, not because of anything that we ourselves have done. (Ephesians 1:4, 11, fn 1:4, fn 1:11, John 6:43-45, fn 6:44, I Thessalonians 1:4-7, II Thessalonians 2:13-17, fn 2:13) *Why did God choose you?*

YOU ARE ADOPTED. “Our adoption is complete, and we are eternally God’s sons and daughters. We were predestined for this before the foundation of the world. ‘In love...in accordance with His pleasure and will.’ This ought to be the melody of our hearts continually.” Kent Hughes, *Ephesians*, p. 27. (Ephesians 1:5, 6, fn 1:5, John 1:12, 13, fn 1:12, 13, Romans 8:14-17, fn 8:14-17[1st], Galatians 4:4-7, fn 4:5-7) *How does knowing that you are an adopted child of God give you security in your salvation?*

The Bible was not written for our information only but for our transformation. *How will these verses change you in your walk with God and others, including your spouse? (Matthew 5:23,24, I Peter 3:7)*

Pray for one another’s needs.

Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?