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Please take a moment to quiet yourself before the Lord. Ask your heavenly Father to forgive you of any sin that is upon your heart and fill you afresh with His Holy Spirit. Please read Ephesians 1:2-6

What two things does Paul pray for all who read this letter?

Grace and peace. In the original Greek *peace* is derived from the word *eirene* which means *peace and harmony between individuals, safety, security and prosperity, the assurance of a soul at peace with God and content with his earthly lot, the peace of those awaiting the return of Christ.*

Charis, the Greek word used for grace in verse 2, means *joy, pleasure, delight, goodwill, to have favor*. Often we think of grace as something that is grudgingly given—as if God is barely willing to forgive. Not only has God forgiven us, but He has given us His favor as well.

What word (or a derivative thereof) is used three times in verse three?

God has saved you so He can *bless* you with many blessings. One of the definitions for the Greek word *blessing* is *praise*. Because God has blessed you with many blessings, you should give Him praise.

Please read verse 4 again.

Please write the blessings found in this verse in the space below:

When did God choose you?

Before He laid the foundation of the world. You did not choose Him; He chose you! You are not a spiritual accident. God picked *you* out of all humanity because He loves you. He's given you gifts and talents that He needs you to use for His kingdom.

How does God feel about His choice (verse 5)?

It brings Him great pleasure! The Greek word for *pleasure* used in this verse is *eudokia*, which means *kindly intent, goodwill, benevolence, delight, pleasure, and satisfaction*. It also means, " ... delight in any absent thing that easily produces longing for it." When you are *absent* from God, He is longing to spend time with you again because He delights in your company.

Please read verse 5 one more time.

In case you need more assurance about your position with God, you are accepted by grace because of your faith in His Son, Jesus. That is cause for us to give Him a little praise! Be blessed!

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