**The Buzz** Taste and See!

Greetings! Did you know that the bee has traditionally been a symbol of Jesus Christ’s attributes? I didn’t know it, but apparently this was because honey reflects his sweet and gentle character, and the sting arouses associations of His death on the cross – “death, where is your sting!”. 1 Corinthians 15:55

Anyway, I’ve always been partial to the honey bee because my name means honey bee in Greek, and even though I confess, I don’t know Greek (yet?), I still think it’s sweet. And, I like honey, in fact, all sweet things…but I digress. Did I mention sweet?

**The Buzz Brief** – In the longest sentence in the Bible, Ephesians 1:3-14, the author is bursting forth with praise to God for lavishing on us who are in Christ ***every*** (kind of) spiritual blessing in the heavenly places! God’s words to us are sweet! Taste and see!

[Cite your source here.]

My goal with *The Buzz* is for us to *taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8)* through studying the Bible, since God’s words are *sweeter than honey to my mouth,* Psalm 119:103. Seriously!

For example, I’ve been studying the book of Ephesians recently. Just to give you a taste of what’s to come as we dig into God’s words for this sweet stuff, let’s look at probably the longest sentence in the Bible (in the original Greek – translators don’t seem to have the stomach for that long a sentence in English). **Ephesians 1:3-14** (ESV with my underlining)

***3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5he predestined us[***[***a***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A3-14&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29195a)***] for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9making known[***[***b***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A3-14&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29199b)***] to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.***

***11In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14who is the guarantee[***[***c***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A3-14&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29204c)***] of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,[***[***d***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%201%3A3-14&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29204d)***] to the praise of his glory.***

There is so much packed in here that one could chew on it indefinitely. (That doesn’t sound appetizing but, truly, God’s Word gets sweeter the longer we meditate on it and the more deeply we study it). But for today, let’s focus just on the whole of this blessing.

This is the apostle Paul’s version of the traditional Jewish “blessing” of God or *berakah.* Check out King Solomon’s *berakah/*blessing in 1 Kings 8:15-21 when he dedicated his newly built Temple to God, or Zechariah’s song of blessing (praise) at the birth of his son, John the Baptist in Luke 1:68-75.

Paul praises (blesses) God the Father for saving us through the work of His Son Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit. The Trinity. Now that’s a concept (that we will dig into another time).

God blessed us ***in*** ***Christ***. More to come on this phrase as well, which Paul uses about 27 times in Ephesians and about 164 times in his all his 13 epistles or letters.

Just some of the blessings we have received and will receive from God – *the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ* :

God chose us (because of His love, not anything we have done or will do!)

God adopted us (to be His children, we can actually call Him “Daddy”, Abba!)

God redeemed us (from slavery to sin by paying the ransom price for us!)

God forgave all our sin (– past, present, future – removed, forgotten!)

God lavished His grace on us (undeserved favor, acceptance, love, delight!)

God gives us wisdom and insight (reveals the hidden mystery of the ages!)

God gave us the Holy Spirit (who seals, protects, guarantees our salvation!)

Why so long a sentence? Imagine the apostle Paul, the former Pharisee, standing with uplifted hands, praising God and speaking this blessing over the believers of 1st century Asia Minor (even though he was stuck in prison writing this to them). He was so pumped about God’s grace toward him and his beloved churches, so full of wisdom and insight and love and power from God, that he was bursting forth with praise to God for His grace and couldn’t share all that God was revealing and speaking fast enough. It’s too much, too good, too amazing to say in one simple sentence. God’s glorious grace transcends and goes way beyond the limits of our ordinary human languages.

May we not only taste the sweetness of God’s words but may we so feast on and so thoroughly incorporate this glorious spiritual food that we will overflow with His love, His wisdom, His power in our thoughts, attitudes, words and actions. Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Honey Bee *aka* Melissa  Μέλισσα

References

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