

SUNDAY RECAP | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look ahead. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

RECAP FOR: Sunday, September 30th, 2018

Take me directly to:

1. [PREPARE for this Sunday](#)
2. [REFLECT on last Sunday](#)
3. [Further Reflection and Study](#) (resources, questions, etc.)
4. [Resources for Kids \(and Parents\)](#)
5. [Sermon Review](#)

PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

// Prayer of Preparation //

God, still our hearts this morning.

May we hear from you

May we be in awe of you

And may we be more attune to your love for us. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his hosts!

Praise him, sun and moon,

praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord!

For he commanded and they were created.

-from [Psalm 148](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives;

Congregation: Father, forgive us

Leader: For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you;

Congregation: Father, forgive us

Leader: For failing you by what we do, and think and say;

Congregation: Father, forgive us

Leader: For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world about us;

Congregation: Father, forgive us

Leader: For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;

Congregation: Father, forgive us

// Assurance of Pardon //

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us.

-Ephesians 1:7-8

// Passing of the Peace //

If you know the story of God you know that in the garden Adam and Eve's sin ruined the peace we had with God. But the good news of the gospel is that Jesus received the war of God and brought us Peace. As people who find their hope in that story let's enjoy the peace we have with God and each other by greeting one another here this morning.

Pastoral Prayer and Offering

Sermon: Paul's Prayer for Us, Ephesians 1:15-23

// Benediction //

Leader: As you go from this place remember this: Jesus has all authority over everything, both this week and forevermore. Go in the peace of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Peace be with you!

Congregation: And Also with you!

REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY ([back to table of contents](#))

// Prayer of Preparation //

Dear God

We come to worship you today.

We come to sing, pray, and listen.

You always hear us. Help us to hear you. Amen.

// Call to Worship //

Leader: Eternal God,

We praise you, we worship you, we adore you.

You hold the heavens in your hand;

all stars rejoice in your glory.

You come in the sunrise and the song of morning

and bless the splendor of the noonday.

Congregation: We praise you, we worship you, we adore you.

Leader: The stars in their courses magnify you;
day and night tell of your glory.
Your peace blows over the earth.

Congregation: We praise you, we worship you, we adore you.

Leader: Your voice comes in the thunder of the storm;
the song of the wind whispers of your majesty.
You satisfy all things living with your abundance,
and our hearts bow at your presence.

Congregation: We praise you, we worship you, we adore you.

Leader: Accept us, your children, eternal Father,
and hear our prayer, we ask, in the name of the name above all names, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

[How Great Thou Art](#)

[Desert Song](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

Leader: Heavenly Father, most loving Jesus, ever-present Holy Spirit, as we recognize your presence with us today, we do so with joyful hearts and deep gratitude, for we are no longer under the law but are standing in grace. We are no longer condemned for our sins but are righteous in Christ. We are no longer leaves who fear but are children who trust.

Congregation: Because this gospel is true, we own our brokenness and our weakness before you.

For the ways we loved poorly this week, forgive and cleanse us.
For being more offended by the sins of other than our own, forgive and cleanse us.
For acting as though Jesus isn't enough, grace isn't sufficient, and you aren't really faithful,
forgive and cleanse us.

Congregation: In Jesus' name and for his glory, we make our prayer, Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

New City Catechism Question 25

Q: Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?

A: Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God graciously imputes Christ's righteousness to us as if it were our own and will remember our sins no more.

[My Rock and My Redeemer](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

As God has greeted us with his peace, so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other. Take a moment to greet those around you.

Pastoral Prayer and Offering

Sermon: Blessed in Christ pt.3 (Ephesians 1:11-14)

[Hallelujah What A Savior](#)

// Benediction //

Leader: God has blessed you in Christ. Nothing can take that from you. Go enjoy all of it!
Peace be with you!

Congregation: And also with you!

FURTHER REFLECTION & STUDY [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

Scripture to Meditate On:

Ephesians 1:13

In 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,

Heidelberg Catechism Q & A 86

Q. *Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace through Christ without any merit of our own, why then should we do good works?*

A. Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, is also restoring us by his Spirit into his image, so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits¹ so that he may be praised through us,² so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits,³ and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ.⁴

¹ Rom. 6:13; 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:5-10

² Matt. 5:16; 1 Cor. 6:19-20

³ Matt. 7:17-18 ; Gal. 5:22-24 ; 2 Pet. 1:10-11

⁴ Matt. 5:14-16; Rom. 14:17-19; 1 Pet. 2:12; 3:1-2

This Weeks Theological Word and Definition:

Imputation

In brief, in Reformed theology imputation most often refers to the legal (or *forensic*) crediting of Jesus's perfect righteousness to believers by faith for justification (another important theological term). Imputation communicates that believers are made right with God (or *justified*) on the basis of the obedience of Christ. Additionally, beyond the imputation of Christ's full obedience to believers, imputation may also refer to the counting of believers' sins to Christ as the sin-bearing substitute.

Reflection Questions:

- In our *Call to Worship* said of God, "You hold the heavens in your hand; all stars rejoice in your glory." Stop for a minute and consider that God holds the heavens in his hand- all the entire universe, galaxies, etc. all fit nicely in the palm of his hand. And that same God knows us. Now picture the stars rejoicing in the presence of God. How do these images strike you? What do they communicate about God? Use your imagination to communicate those same attributes of God through your own imagery.
- Why is this an amazing statement- "*who works all things according to the counsel of his will*"?
- How does the fact that we inherit all of God affect how you view your everyday life?

Suggested Resources

Devotional: [Providence and Inheritance](#) from Ligonier Ministries

Articles: [Electric Feel: Don't Impose Your Expectations on the Holy Spirit](#) by Rick Ritchie
[It's Him... the Holy Spirit](#) by Steve Brown
[Kept by Jesus](#) by Sam Storms

Other Sermons: [Abide: The Promised Holy Spirit](#) by Kevin Labby

Ephesians Series Resources:

[Ephesians Scripture Journal](#) (available on Sundays for \$2)
[Alive in Him](#) by Gloria Furman (available on Sundays for \$5) and accompanying [Study Guide](#) and

RESOURCES FOR KIDS (and Parents) [\(back to table of contents\)](#)

2-minute Video (because we know that's all the time you have) ;)

[Gospel Principle: Inability](#) with Paul Tripp

Article: [Building Soul Spaces](#) by Jenni Young

[New City Catechism Question 3](#)

How many persons are there in God?

There are three persons in the one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

[New City Catechism Question 37](#)

Q: How does the Holy Spirit help us?

A: The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, comforts us, guides us, gives us spiritual gifts and the desire to obey God; and he enables us to pray and to understand God's Word.

FAMILY BIBLE TIME GUIDE

Read Ephesians 1:13 together

Ephesians 1:13 In 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

Questions for Children and Parents to discuss:

- What are some things we learn from this verse?
 - *For the little kids-* "Did you know that believing in Jesus comes from hearing about what Jesus did for us? What did Jesus do for us? (died for our sin, lived a perfect life) "What about the Holy Spirit, what does He do? (reminds us that we are God's, helps us pray, reminds us when we sin and need to ask forgiveness, helps us understand the Bible, gives us words to tell other people about Jesus, etc.)
- From this verse why is it important to speak the gospel to each other and our friends and neighbors? (because believing comes from *hearing*)
- Why do we need the Holy Spirit?

- What do you think it means that we are “sealed” with the HS? Why is that necessary?

Prayer

God you are amazing. God the Father, we thank you for sending Jesus to save us. Jesus we thank you for living the perfect life for us and dying the death of sin for us. Holy Spirit we thank you for sealing us and guiding us every single day. Help us, Holy Spirit to live in a way that tells others that Jesus is our savior. When we sin we know you will help us see that and ask forgiveness for it. Give us words to talk to others about Jesus so they can believe also. We love you God. Amen.

Sermon Review ([back to table of contents](#))

Title: Blessed in Christ, pt.3

Text: Ephesians 1:11-14

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/blessed-in-christ-part-3/>

Podcast: <https://cccplainfield.org/subscribe-to-podcast>

Sermon Summary: God has left nothing to chance. Your future is bright.

Continuing as Paul tells us of the blessings we receive from God in Christ, Paul tells us that we have an *inheritance* and are *sealed with the Holy Spirit*. If you have been following Paul’s flow of thought it won’t surprise you that he says we have an inheritance because back in verse 5 he says we were “adopted as sons.” If we are sons then of course we receive the Father’s inheritance! The question then, of course, is, “What are we inheriting?” We are inheriting all the promises that were fulfilled in Christ. Which is an amazing statement to consider. We receive all that God has ever promised not by being of a certain heritage or by following a set of rules or religious practices, but by being “in Christ.”

How can we be sure?

Notice Paul says our inheritance is rooted not in our ability to keep it, but in our being “predestined” (v.11). In other words, our receiving our inheritance depends upon the will of God not on the actions of men.

What difference does it make?

Consider the difference it would make in your life if you were adopted by Warren Buffet and therefore received an inheritance from him. Would that make any difference in the way you live in the “here-and-now”? Of course it would! You wouldn’t have to worry about making a life for yourself or making sure you had the future you needed, a 401k, or a savings account. In other words you could live *free*. You could live from your desires without being constrained by those things. Sounds great doesn't it? The same is true with our inheritance in Christ. We can live free, knowing in the end we inherit all Christ has earned for us- we will rule and reign with him as his co-heirs.

How else can we be sure?

In verse 13 Paul gives us another reason we can be sure- when we believed we were *sealed with the promised Holy Spirit*. First we *heard* the gospel, then we *believed*, then we were *sealed*. God has left nothing to chance. We have been sealed, and sealed with God himself! We are his. He is in us and we are in him.

Paul continues to say that the Holy Spirit is the “guarantee” of our inheritance until we acquire it (v.14). In other words the Holy Spirit is a sort of “down payment” for a future fully experienced reality. If you want to

know if I am my father's son, it won't take you too long. You can look at my face and see his face. You can watch my mannerisms and see his mannerisms. And unfortunately, you can listen to my jokes, and hear his jokes. It's the same way with the Holy Spirit's work in us. He is living in and through us, therefore we get to know a bit of what our future will be like when we fully experience life in God. We know of God's presence here, but it is still a bit veiled, but one day it will be complete. And others get to see and hear God because he is living in and through us as a community. The world gets to know him through us. Both of those things- our knowing of life in God now, and others knowing God through us, serve as great reminders that we have been *sealed* and the Holy Spirit is our "guarantee" of a future full inheritance. Hallelujah!