

## **Tim's version of TRAIN for the day 8:**

**Text** (this is just part – read the whole thing for yourself)

*<sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. <sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. <sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, <sup>20</sup> which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.*

## **Reality**

Predestination, redemption, adoption, deposit. Some pretty meaty theological concepts. I know there are some that believe that the predestination thing is only for certain people, but I can't buy that. You are the Heavenly father who wants everyone in your family. Peter said you wanted "all to come to repentance." What that means is that you set everything up ahead of time for me to come back to you.

I'm so thankful for the redemption – the buying back – because I am adopted and don't belong in your family. This concept reminds me that I have no rights to be called your son, and it is the greatest of blessings that I get to be here. I'm not good enough, I wasn't from the right race, and I don't deserve it, but I am adopted. Not only that but you gave me the seal of the Holy Spirit that guarantees my inheritance. Whenever I might question – or someone else might question – I only have to stop and listen to the Spirit tell me I am your child and I have eternal riches waiting for me.

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<sup>a</sup> Or a spirit

## **Application –**

This chapter is not about doing anything, it's about being your child. How much differently would we all act on a minute to minute basis if we fully understood Ephesians 1? We are bought, paid for, adopted, predestined, sealed... if we could live in that understanding for just a few minutes a day – everything else would melt away. The knowledge that you are God and I am your beloved child should make absolutely everything else not matter.

*“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,<sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”*

That says it all right there.

## **Interaction with God**

I pray for the Spirit of Wisdom and revelation to help me know you better. And the eyes of my heart to be enlightened so I can walk in the riches and power and knowledge of you – even just for a few minutes. Maybe just those over the top stressed out minutes or challenged minutes when I'm thinking I have to run the world. And I pray that every day I can do it more and more.

And I'm going to have more need for that than ever before with this campaign and now the new growth spurt that we have to figure out.

Thank you for the call to Rachel. Thank you that they get to move into the campus house today and get settled and she has classes starting up. I pray for strength for her in these strange surroundings. She is so awesome. Lord, please be with Becca and Lauren today and this week as they audition. Help them to know how amazing they are. I pray for Denise and I as we grow together and give her peace and joy as she tries to stay away from the work side and refreshes in you.

Lord, the growth yesterday is blowing my mind. Do we need to start at 4<sup>th</sup> service? Give us wisdom today as we talk it through. I want room for your prodigals, but you are going to have to make some things happen. Thank you for the Lockport location, but you just filled it in one weekend! I pray for our staff meetings today and our elders meeting tonight.

## **Next Step**

- Peace – deep breathing, contemplative prayer every time I start a meeting today. Every time I start to do it all on my own. I need to stop and realize that great hope and riches and power available to me.
- Seal of the Spirit – can I recognize it?
- Confession – I will do that now.