

#### 7-DAY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE AFTER THE VOTE:

#### "Now What?"

Gleanings from Ephesians 1:3-10

#### by Rev. Jason Rumbough



#### WRITER'S BIO

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Day 1	Remember the Gospe
- Day 1	Jason Rumbougl
Dood F	_
Reau E	nesians 1:1-23
-	he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy eless before him in love." Ephesians 1:4 (NRSV)
over the Revitali designe experie	es, we can get caught up in all the changes that have taken place past season that we forget to pause and remember the "why". tion is not about change for the sake of change. It's a process that it to get back to the original mission of the church. Sometimes, we e mission drift, and it is good to be reminded of what God has with and what God has saved us for.
saves u passage spiritua secured to take	s, we are going to be focusing on Paul's central idea that the gospel by Christ and for Christ. A succinct way of summarizing the above is to say that we have been blessed by God in Christ with every plessing to be holy and blameless in love as sons and daughters, by Christ for the purpose of uniting all things in Christ. We are going the part of this statement each day and pray through what it means and individuals and for us as a revitalized church.
	<u>Prayer</u>
Pray thi	passage slowly out loud to yourself.
,	"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who	as blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
	ust as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world
	to be holy and blameless before him in love.
	e destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ,
to the	according to the good pleasure of his will,
	aise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Belove im we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our
	trespasses,
	according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us.
With a	wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his wil
	according to his good pleasure he set forth in Christ,
	s a plan for the fullness of time to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth." Ephesians 1:3-10





OTES		
	Day 2	Blessed by God in Christ
		Jason Rumbough
	Read Ephesians 1:3a	
	"Blessed be the God and Father Christ"	of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in
	location, location, location. The because it determines so many of the property is insignificant example, 1 acre of land in the r same property value as 1 acre of the location of our property in found on that property are goi When Paul starts his letter by s	to that the number one rule in real estate is a reason why location is so important is other things regarding the property. The size compared to the location of the property. For middle of Montana is not going to have the of land in downtown New York. Additionally, proximity to other properties and the things I ng to determine the value of that property. tating that God has blessed us in Christ, Paul is ere that blessing takes place—in Christ.
	forget that it was God who bro hearts, and it was God that crea And all of these things happen 15 that apart from Him we can question "what now" is to reme	h the revitalization process can sometimes aught the change, it was God who softened ated the catalyst for revitalization to happen. ed in Christ. Jesus Himself reminds us in John do nothing. So, the first step in answering the ember that everything that has happened up a result of God's movement in your church as it
	Prayer	_
		ys you can specifically remember how God has ver the past season of revitalization. Then g God for each of those things.

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDES FOR CHURCH REVITALIZATION



NOTES	
	Day 3 With Every Spiritual Blessing
	Jason Rumbough
	Read Ephesians 1:3
	"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places"
	Not only does the location of God's blessing matter, the substance of that blessing matters as well. Paul tells us that God has given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. The process of revitalization can be hard and going through this process can often be exhausting. It's easy during these seasons to feel as though we have nothing left in the tank.
	Jesus—the embodiment of spiritual blessing—regularly encountered people who were in desperate need, and he met those needs every time. However, we also read that Jesus regularly got away to be still and pray. Meaning, even the Son of God needed to rest and reflect on what God had called Him to.
	The spiritual blessings that God offers us are free to all followers of Christ. They cannot be taken away. They do not fade. They never rust. And they cannot be taken from you. However, many times they go unnoticed because we have busied ourselves with the work of revitalization. Take some time to slow down for a few minutes to reflect on the spiritual blessings God has given to you in Christ. The finished work of Christ on the cross and the power of the resurrection are proof that the work of revitalization does not rest entirely on your shoulders. In fact, take some time to simply sit and pray a simple prayer like this:
	Prayer
	Father, today, I commit to being still in Your presence; remembering that I have all I need in You. Amen.

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Day 4	To Be Holy and Blameless in Love
- Day 1	Jason Rumbough
Read Ephesians 1:4	3
Read Lphesians 1.4	
"just as he chose us and blameless before h	in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy nim in love."
of things, that at one to appliance, extra batter floor and you can't rer pull all those things or	e has a junk drawer. In that drawer are things, or pieces time served a purpose. They may be pieces to an ries, or a Lego piece that somehow wound up on the member where it goes. Every now and then, it's good to ut and to sort through the drawer and try to remember used for so that I can go back to serving its original
that are taking place, in the first place. It can us those spiritual bless to be holy and blamel we start, and every pe through this lens. If th that is set apart – ther is something that is ke how to bring reconcili forgiveness that needs prompting you with.	ess of revitalization is so hard or there's so many things it can be easy to forget why certain things were begun a also be easy to get off track and forget why God gave sings to begin with. Paul's answer is very simple: we are ess in love. Every decision we make, every new program rson who walks through our doors is to be viewed ere is something that's clouding our ability to be holy—a we should try to figure out how to remove it. If there eeping us from being blameless then we need to seek ation. It may be an apology that needs to be given, or is to be offered, or it could be something else God is While difficult, holiness and blamelessness in love is the set and toward others second.
•	nat things are in your spiritual junk drawer that need to ou may be holy and blameless in love?
Prayer	
purpose is often cloud may be good thing th haven't been used at a	have saved me in Christ for a purpose. Yet I know that ded by things I bring to the table. Sometimes, these at have been misused or they may be some things that all. Father, show me today those things that I may be love before You and before others. Amen.

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NOTES		
	Day 5	As Sons and Daughters
		Jason Rumbough
	Read Ephesians 1:5-6	j
	The state of the s	as his children through Jesus Christ, according to to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely ed."
	anyone else. For example, if knocked on your door and a because they've had a bad one of your children comes	t we do for our kids that we would never do for someone showed up at your house at night and asked if they could crawl in the bed with you dream, you would call the police or. However, if to your bedside and tells you the same thing, you, and tell them that they are safe.
	are given to his sons and his try and figure out what we w	e purpose of holiness and blamelessness in love s daughters. We are not strangers who are left to were to do and how we are to do it. We are God's ave access to come to him at every point in life.
	changes that have been ma people you love and have k difficult, often emotional process is not done in isolat participation with our heave us. What about you? Do you sense his nearness? Would	can feel very lonely. Sometimes, because of de, you may find yourself saying goodbye to nown for a while. It can feel like a very lonely, very ocess. However, we are reminded by Paul that this tion, but it is done in the presence of and in enly Father who loves us and has not abandoned a feel the presence of God in your life? Can you you say that you would be able to come to God ent in the night? Regardless of however you feel,
	Help me to sense Your near	for Your love and for making Yourself available. Thess and give me the boldness to come to You heavy on my shoulders. Amen.

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OTES		
	Day 6	Secured by Christ
	Day 6	Jason Rumbough
	_	Jason Kumbougn
	Read Ephesians 1:7-8	
	"In him we have redemption through his blackers according to the riches of his grace that he	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	One time, when I was a child, I remember play with friends. Unfortunately, in my exclude how to swim. It did not take long for me to the pool. It was the most helpless feeling matter of seconds – though it felt like an expulled me out of the water and placed me	itement, I forgot that I didn't know o begin sinking to the bottom of that I have ever had. Within a eternity – a hand reached down and
	The revitalization process can sometimes forgetting how to swim. You can feel the pathings that have changed, so many converso many things that still need to be done. place, it can often feel like you're sinking to one important truth remains: as a follower in God. This means, that your value does rehandled every part of the revitalization profession what people think of you or the decidence have been secured by God in Christ. You have the forgiveness of your sin. And that He has lavished on you. These are no are not things that you can lose. They are	oressure and stress of so many resations that have happened, and With all of these things taking to the bottom of the pool. However, of Jesus, you are secured by Christ not come from how successful you ocess. Your worth does not stem sions that you've made. No, you have redemption through His blood. you have the riches of His grace t things that you earned, and these
	Prayer  Father, forgive me for the times that I assusubconsciously that my worth comes from Help me to remember, though many time that my value comes from what Christ has secured for me. Amen.	n what I can do or what I have done. s it seems contrary to what I feel,





NOTES		
	Day 7	For the Purpose of Uniting All Things in Christ
		Jason Rumbough
	Read Ephesia	ns 1:8-10
	according to hi	om and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, is good pleasure he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness er up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."
	coaster. When can hear the go while exciting i that you can't At some point, plunging acros adrenaline rusl The reason wh that track is ke	riest things I've ever done is just sit on the front of a roller that roller coaster makes the initial climb up the hill and you ears clicking as you get higher and higher, reaching the top is also terrifying. There's a point when you get to the very top see the tracks in front of you, all you can see is the sky above. The back half of the coaster makes it far enough to send you as the tracks below. Even though this process is a terrifying h, I've never once been afraid to get back on the roller coaster. You is because I know that despite what my eyes are telling me, eping that roller coaster from flying off. I also know that that initive beginning and ending. At some point, the ride is over get off safe and excited, ready to do it again.
	reminds us that ends with all the forth in Christ, complete as pr	aos and seemingly out of control process of revitalization, Paul at not only does God have a plan in place, but this plan also nings in heaven and on earth united in Christ. This plan, set will reach its climax and, in the fullness of time, will be romised and as planned. In other words, God's plan for the in Christ—and He will see it through until the end.
	Pray	er
	do not rely on they rely on Yo time is right. H	You that Your plan for the world and Your plan for this church my wisdom, my insight, my ability, or my strength. Instead, ou, and I believe that You will bring it to completion when the elp me to trust that Your plan is on the right track, even when and out of control. Amen.

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