

Week of September 2-8

## PILE ON

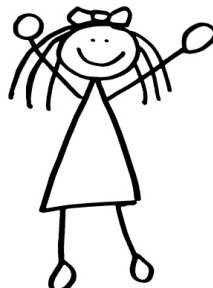
**Scripture Reading:** Read Ephesians chapter 1

Twenty-five years ago, I was the victim of a pile on. Not a pile up as in an automobile accident but pile on as in ten kids jumping on top of me at a campout when I was a youth pastor. Now, it's definitely much more fun being the pile on'er than the pile on'ee if you know what I mean! The kids loved it and I felt squished like a pancake. I much prefer the apostle Paul's pile on in today's chapter reading.

In Ephesians chapter 1, Paul lays out for us a number of benefits that come our way when we put our faith in Christ. He isn't content, though, to mention just one or two blessings that come from God. No, he piles it on.

	<b>Forgiven</b> 1:7	<b>Wisdom</b> 1:8	<b>Redeemed</b> 1:7	<b>Lavished with grace</b> 1:7-8
<b>Sealed with the Holy Spirit</b> 1:13		<b>Adopted</b> 1:5	<b>Predestined</b> 1:5	
	<b>Understanding</b> 1:8	<b>Chosen</b> 1:4	<b>Revelation</b> 1:7	
		<b>Blessed with every spiritual blessing</b> 1:3	<b>God's Heirs</b> 1:14	

**More pile on blessings in chapter 2:**  
loved, saved, made alive, raised up, seated in heavenly places...



**More pile on blessings in chapter 3:**  
heirs together with Israel, sharers together in the promise, access to God in prayer...

With all these blessings piling on us, no wonder Paul prayed as he did in verse 18: *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...* Paul wanted us to see for ourselves how awesome the benefits are when we put our faith in Christ.

One last point for you to ponder: As blessed as we are, the blessing isn't the end but a means to an end...God's glory and praise! Check it out for yourself in 1:6,12,14.

**Action Step & Prayer Focus:** Review the blessings above and pick one or two that really stand out for you. Pray for the Lord to open the eyes of your heart to see the fullness of those benefits in your life.

**Take-a-way:** *When you become a Christian, expect a pile on of blessings from God.*