

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 1

HCat: 8.24-25

SINGING: 228: 1-3 – 292:1-5 – 422:1, 2 – 256: 1, 2, 5

Intro: Doctrine is heaven!

A. Why would Luther say that about doctrine?

B. What would he answer to those who state: *Never mind doctrine: focus on spiritual experiences and Christian action?*

C. Biblically: *Doctrine is parent to spiritual experience and godliness*

The Doxology on God's Gospel of Salvation

I. Praise to God the Father for electing sinners

II. Praise to God the Son for redeeming sinners

III. Praise to God the Spirit sanctifying sinners

Introduction:

A. Paul's epistle is written to *sinners saved* (1:1, 2:1-4)

B. In his subsequent letter Paul unfolds *where their salvation came from* (1:1-13)

1. The emphasis of Paul is on *doxology to God*

2. What a revelation this was for Ephesians & all those who trust Christ!

I. Praise is due to God the Father for *electing sinners*

A. Before **foundation of the world** He chose sinners to inherit salvation (11, 14)

1. On what basis did He chose them?

2. If it is based on anything of us, the Gospel would be dead

B. Beloved saints: *Are you holding your eye of faith on this eternal foundation?*

C. Troubled sinner: *Where are you to look as you face your condition?*

II. Praise is due to God the Son for redeeming sinners

A. As Father *so loved to give His Son*, so the Son **so** loved to give Himself

1. He agreed to be our representative – become the 'head of chosen body'

a. notice the emphasis on union of Jesus with His people (3-7)

- B. How uplifting to trace glory of *the Son of God* in covenant of grace!
1. He agreed to Father's *commandment because He loved Him* (John 14:31)
2. He was the Father's gift to *make us accepted in the Beloved* (vs. 6)
- C. Beloved saints: *Are we living our life by the faith of the Son of God like Paul?*
- D. Troubled sinners: *dream not of fitness – seek for no ground in yourself!*

III. Praise is due to God the Holy Spirit for sanctifying sinners

- A. As the Father & Son, so the Holy Spirit has His part in *covenant of grace*
- B. What is His part in God's great scheme of salvation?
1. His part is to make sinners holy (vs. 4)
 - a. He makes holy by unites us by faith to Jesus Christ in regeneration
 2. His part is also to make us without blame (vs. 4)
 - a. He leads sinners to *trust in Jesus Christ* (vs. 12-13)
 - to bring to faith takes resurrection power applied (vs. 19-20)
 - b. to live by faith is *much harder than to live by sight or feelings*
 3. His part is to lead to *assurance of faith* (vs. 13-14)
 - a. He does this *by working faith in the promises* and through *His sealing*
- C. Beloved fellow believers: *what would we be w/o HS?*
1. We would *like we did in the past* (Eph. 2:1-3; 11-13)

Not for our duties or deserts (deserving)
But of His own abounding grace.
He works salvation in our hearts,
And forms a people for His praise.