

Ephesians 1:1-14

Ephesus: Paul had spent 3 years there...an extremely long tenure for a man like him. During that time a strong church was started and established.

When Paul was on his way to Jerusalem some time later, he called for the elders of the Ephesian church to give them a final training session.

1. In Jerusalem he was arrested and spent 2 years in prison.
2. Now he has been transferred to Rome where he will be spending another 2 years.
3. While in prison in Rome, he writes this letter to the church in Ephesus.

READ/PRAY

This text is complex. So much is woven together here before us, but it is clear that a major theme is the goodness of God toward us. Notice...God Has....

I. Blessed Us v3

With every spiritual blessing. Think about this...You are as holy as you want to be!

1. You might not be as holy as you “wish” you were, but you are most certainly as holy as you “want” to be.
2. Because God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing!

2 Peter 1:3 *His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness,*

1. You are not waiting on the Holy Spirit
2. He is waiting on you!

II. Chose Us v4

This has been so debated and argued over the years.

1. I understand that there are complexities and questions surrounding this issue
2. But it is very clear, that God Sovereignly and graciously chose us...not vice versa

Acts 13:48 *When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.*

That we should be holy and blameless

1. Both positional holiness
2. And Practical holiness

If men are chosen *to be* holy, they cannot be chosen *because* they are holy. Charles Hodge, 35

2 Thess 2:13 *But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth*

III. Predestined Us v5

Romans 8:28-30

Adoption is an act of God whereby he makes us members of his family.

1. In regeneration God gives us new spiritual life within.
2. In justification God gives us right legal standing before him.
3. But in adoption God makes us members of his family.
4. John 1:12-13 *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

v11-12

Rom 8:14-17

Adoption is just pure grace: he could have awakened us...and justified us...but he went above and beyond to adopt us and to make us joint heirs with Jesus Christ Himself!

1 John 3:1 *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.*

IV. Graced Us v6

Freely “bestowed” on us! Literally, he caused to overflow on us!

2:7 speaks of the “immeasurable riches of His grace.”

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

1 Timothy 1:14 *and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant,*

V. Makes Known to Us v9-10

The mystery of His will...what does this word mystery imply?

1. Not incomprehensible!
2. Undiscoverable! We would never know this mystery without God taking the initiative to speak to us!
 - a. Creation
 - b. The Law
 - c. Christ
 - d. Hebrews 1:1-3 *God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high*

Christ is the greatest, clearest, and fullest revelation of God to/for us.

1. Have you noticed this?
2. All of what God has done for us is directly linked and connected to Christ?

Look again.

1. v3—He has blessed us...In Christ
2. v4—He has chosen us...in Him
3. v5—He has predestined us...through Him
4. v6—He has graced us...in the Beloved
5. v9-10—He has Made known to us...purposed and summed up in Him!

Christ...Christ...Christ! The greatest blessing God has poured out upon us is Christ!

1. It is through Christ that we are made fit to receive all of these blessings
2. v7-8—In Him we have redemption, through His blood and forgiveness.
3. The greatest blessing he has poured out on us is Christ!

There is a lot about “us” in this text isn’t there? What is our role in all of this? v13

1. You listened v13a
2. You believed v13b

This is what you need to ask yourself...not, am I blessed, chosen, predestined, graced? Do I know the mystery??? NO!

1. Ask yourself, am I listening?
 - a. How many times do we read, "he who has ears to hear, let him hear?"
 - b. Do you hear?
2. Ask yourself do you believe?

Romans 10:9-15

If you listen and believe....get this.

1. God the Father has poured out upon you all these blessings
2. He has poured them out in and through Christ for us
3. Us who would listen and believe
4. And He even went farther...He seals and secures us with His Spirit! v13b-14a
5. We see very clearly Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in this text don't we. The Spirit
 - a. Seals us v13b Ephesians 4:30
 - b. Is a Pledge for us v14a 2 Corinthians 1:22, 5:5 *who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge....Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge*

Conclusion:

God the Father has poured out on us blessing upon blessing through the person of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. He has done this for us...for our good...but ultimately for His glory!

1. The theme of these verses...and this letter, is not us. It is His glory! v14b
2. To the praise of His glory! v3, v6, v12

Let us give Him glory this morning by laying ourselves before Him afresh.