

In Christ

TEXT: Eph. 1:3-14

INTRODUCTION:

- A. PAUL TELLS WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN FOR US **IN CHRIST**.
 - 1. We emphasize what God has done.
 - 2. And that he has done all **through Christ**.
- B. THE SUBJECT OF THIS PARAGRAPH IS FOUND IN **verses 9-10**.
 - 1. God purposed the mystery of his will **in Christ (Eph. 3:11)**.
 - 2. All things are summed up **in him**.
 - 3. There are six things that God has done that are listed here.
 - 4. These things are specific elements in the eternal purpose of God.
- C. WHAT HAS GOD DONE FOR US **IN CHRIST**?

I. BLESSED US WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING (vs. 3).

- A. ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE AND GODLINESS ARE OUR THROUGH A KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS (**2 Pet. 1:3**)
- B. ACCESS TO THE FATHER (**John 14:6**).
- C. SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE (**Acts 4:12; 1 John 5:11**).

II. CHOSE US IN HIM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD (vs. 4).

- A. **CHOSE**, *elektos*, “picked out.”
 - 1. Emphasis on what God does **IN CHRIST**.
 - 2. Our election has its ground **IN CHRIST**, in the sense that apart from Christ, there is no election.
- B. WHO IS CHOSEN? “US!”
 - 1. Specific individuals?
 - 2. Believers in general? (**Rev. 22:17; 2 Tim. 2:3-4**)
- C. GOD PURPOSED TO BLESS IN CHRIST BEFORE CREATION (**1 Pet. 1:18-20; Acts 2:22-23**).
- D. WHAT DID GOD DETERMINE BEFOREHAND ABOUT HIS CHOSEN?
 - 1. **Holy**, *hagios*, different, set apart (**2 Cor. 6:14, 17-18; Rom. 12:2**)
 - 2. Without blemish
 - a. Forgiven, therefore without sin (**Eph. 5:25-27**).
 - b. Pure in our behavior (**Phil. 2:14-15**).

III. HAVING FOREORDAINED US UNTO ADOPTION AS SONS (vs. 5).

- A. **FOREORDAINED**, *prooridzo*, “denotes to bind, set a boundary.”
 - 1. English word – “horizon.”
 - 2. Once again, who is foreordained? Specific individuals? **NO!** But the kind of person who is within the set boundary God has set forth. A peculiar kind of person (**Titus 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:9-10**)
- B. KEEP IN MIND THAT PAUL’S OBJECT IS TO TELL US WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN CHRIST.
- C. WHAT WAS FOREORDAINED? THAT THOSE ELECTED WOULD BE ADOPTED CHILDREN (**Gal. 3:26-27; 4:4-7**).

IV. FREELY BESTOWED HIS GRACE UPON US (vs. 6).

- A. **GRACE**, *charis*, “Favor which is undeserved.” (**Rom. 6:23**) THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE IMPLIES LOVE AS A MOTIVE (**John 3:16**).
- B. GRACE INCLUDES:
 1. Redemption in the blood of Christ (**Heb. 9:22, 11-14; 1 Pet. 1:18-19**).
 2. The forgiveness of our trespasses – no more remembrance (**Heb. 8:12**).
- C. GRACE MADE TO ABOUND IN ALL PRUDENCE & WISDOM (**Titus 2:11-12**).
- D. WHEN HE MADE KNOWN TO US THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL (**Eph. 3:5**).

V. IN WHOM WE ARE MADE A HERITAGE (vs. 11).

- A. **HERITAGE**, *kleros*, “a heritage, a private possession ... the heritage of God.” (**1 Pet. 2:9**).
 1. Having been foreordained. See above.
 2. That we should be unto the praise of his glory (**Matt. 5:16; Eph. 2:10**).
- B. WHO IS THE HERITAGE OF GOD?
 1. We who before hoped in Christ – The Jews (**vs. 12**)
 2. Ye also who trusted in Christ after they heard (**vs. 13**)
 3. All that believe (**Rom. 1:16**).

VI. SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (vs. 13-14).

- A. **SEALED**, *sphraqizo*, “to mark (with a seal) as a means of identification.” (**Rom. 8:16**).
- B. **EARNEST**, *arobon*, “deposit, earnest money, down payment.”
- C. THE SEAL OF THE SPIRIT IS GOD’S FULL GUARENTEE THAT HIS PURPOSE WILL BE CONSUMMATED IN OUR INHERITANCE (**1 Pet. 1:3-5**).

CONCLUSION: ALL OF THESE THINGS ARE ACCORDING TO HIS ETERNAL PURPOSE IN CHRIST.

- A. WHEN? IN THE **FULNESS OF TIME**.
- B. WHAT? TO **SUM UP ALL THINGS IN CHRIST** – ALL THE THINGS THAT GOD PLANNED FOR US **IN CHRIST**.
- C. BUT HOW DOES ONE GET **INTO CHRIST**? THIS PASSAGE TELLS OF GOD’S PART, WHAT IS MAN’S? (**Gal. 3:26-27**).