

Ephesians

1:1-14

A. An Introduction to Ephesians (Eph 1:1-2)

Paul,
an apostle of Christ Jesus
by the will of God,

to the saints
who are at Ephesus,
and
who are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Grace to you and peace
from God our Father
and
the Lord Jesus Christ.

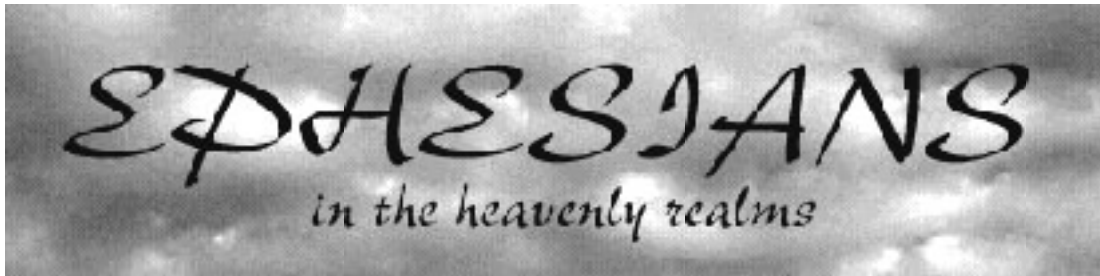
Paul, the Rabbi, called himself the worst of sinners because he actually persecuted Christians. And yet God redeemed him and chose him to be an apostle of Christ Jesus.

This epistle was written to the Ephesians or perhaps just generally to the churches in Asia Minor. Some texts exclude the words “at Ephesus.”

Although structurally similar to typical greetings, the message is shaped by the facts of faith: concession and reconciliation derive from God and not from man.

Away with the arguments that say that “I am not good enough.” Of course we aren’t good enough. He chooses us in Christ.

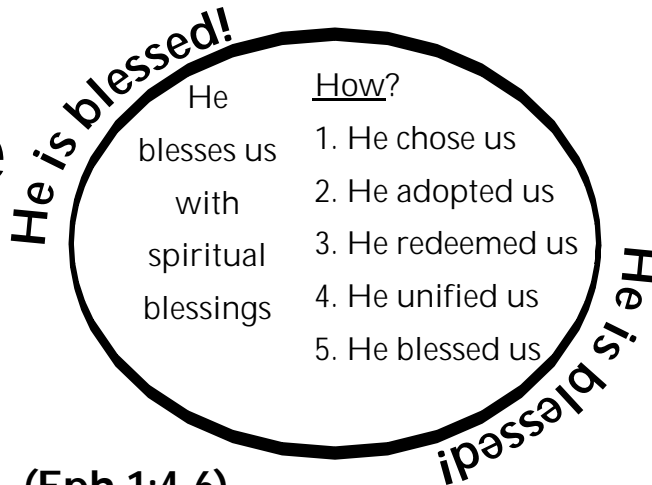
The designation to saints is clear. Paul called these Christians both ‘saints’ and ‘faithful.’ We need to remember the context of Ephesians to properly apply the special purpose God has in them and through them.



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How did He bless us?



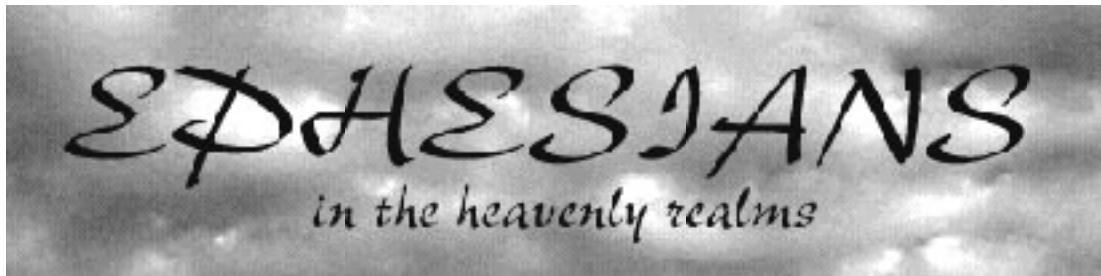
Praise begins with God and ends with God. And somehow in His mysterious and very kind will He included a place for sinful man to enter into the portrayal of His glory.

1. He Chose Us (Eph 1:4-6)

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,

- that we should be holy and blameless before Him.

We are astonished at the clarity of His purpose to care for sinners. Purpose statements are scattered over all this passage.



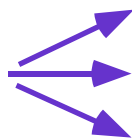
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1. He Chose Us (Eph 1:4-6) (Continued)

In love

He ~~predestined~~
according to the
kind intention
of His will,



- to **adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ
- to Himself,
- to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

This is one of the major texts clearly teaching the process of divine selection. Before the blessing was issued, it needed to be directed.

* **Who were chosen?**

* **When were they chosen?**

* **What is purpose of being chosen?**

* **In what disposition did He choose us?** (see verse 6)

Predestined προορισας

Six times in NT

Ac 4:28* to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur.

Ro 8:29* For whom He foreknew, He also predestined [to become] conformed to the Image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren:

Ro 8:30* and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.
1Co 2:7* but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden [wisdom,] which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

Eph 1:5* He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

Eph 1:11* also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

Unto adoption as sons

(εις υιοθεσιαν).

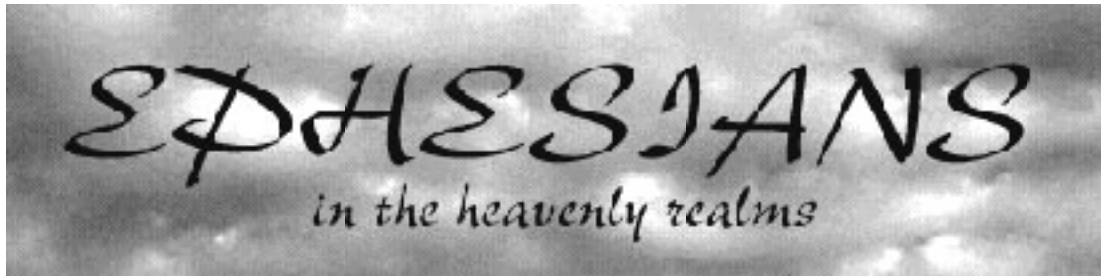
"In order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." (Gal 4:5)

"For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15)

"...Who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises" (Romans 9:4)

2. He Adopted Us (Eph 1:5)

In His kind purpose the Lord designated us to be part of the family of God. We who lost our privileges with God have now been brought near to God as His children.



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3. He Redeemed Us (Eph 1:7-8a)

In Him
we have **redemption**
through His blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of His grace,
which He lavished
upon us.

The means:

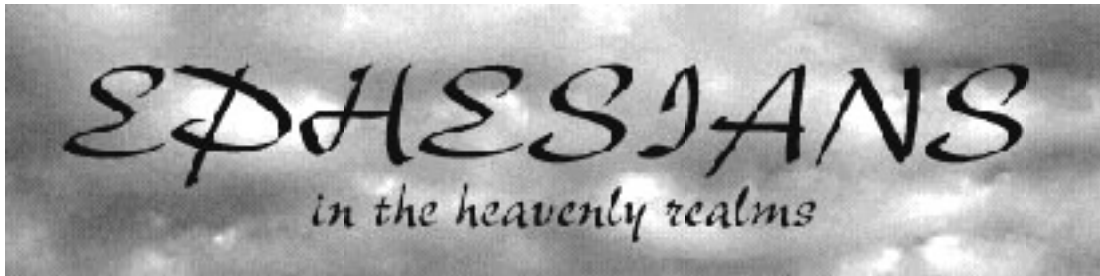
- In Him
- through His blood

The things we gain:

- redemption (bought back)
- forgiveness of our trespasses

The motivation:

- acc. to the riches of His grace



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4. He Unified Us (Eph 1:8b-10)

In all wisdom
and
insight

He **made known**
to us

according to His kind intention
which He purposed in Him...

the mystery of His will,

with a view to an
administration
suitable to the
fullness of the
times

=

that is, the
summing up of
all things
Christ

things in the heavens
and
things upon the earth.

The means:

- In all wisdom
- and insight

The revelation:

made known mystery of His
will

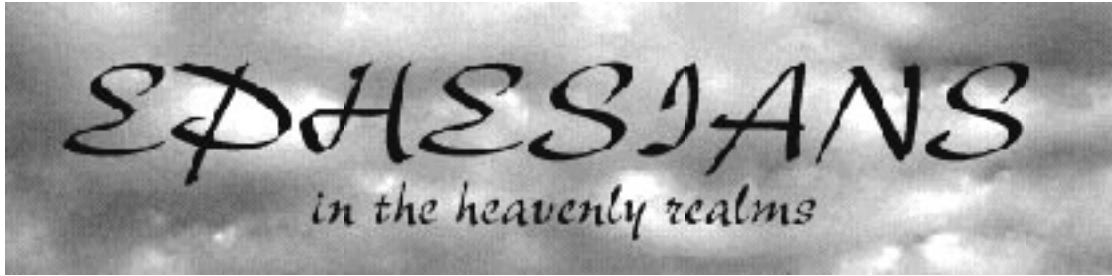
The motivation:

- acc. to His kind intention

The purpose:

We are not sure how far back this
phrase 'He purposed' goes back.
Does it refer to His making known
or His kind intention? I prefer the
later.

"... Then comes the end, when He
delivers up the kingdom to the God and
Father, when He has abolished all rule
and all authority and power. ... And
when all things are subjected to Him,
then the Son Himself also will be
subjected to the One who subjected all
things to Him, that God may be all in
all." (1 Cor 15:23-28)



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5. He Blessed Us (Eph 1:11-12)

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance,



having been predestined according to His purpose

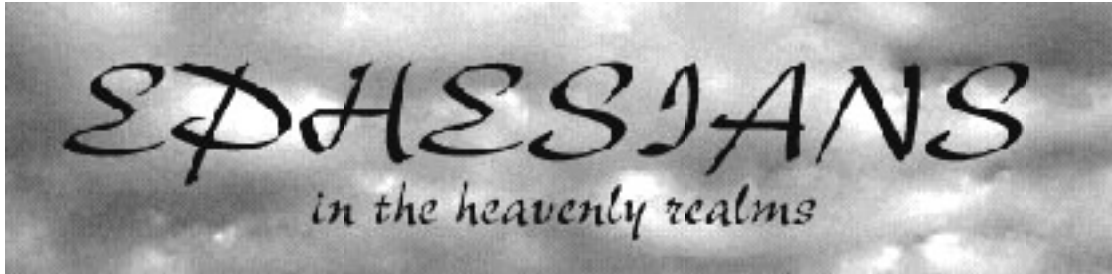
who works all things after the counsel of His will

to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Blessings are from the Lord given in Christ.

There is a powerful emphasis that God has brought these blessings into our sinful lives. Without His purpose and kind intention, we just wouldn't have a chance of gaining anything from God.

Our ultimate purpose is not found in our own small purposes but in accomplishing the purpose of God in Christ in which we show off the glory of God.



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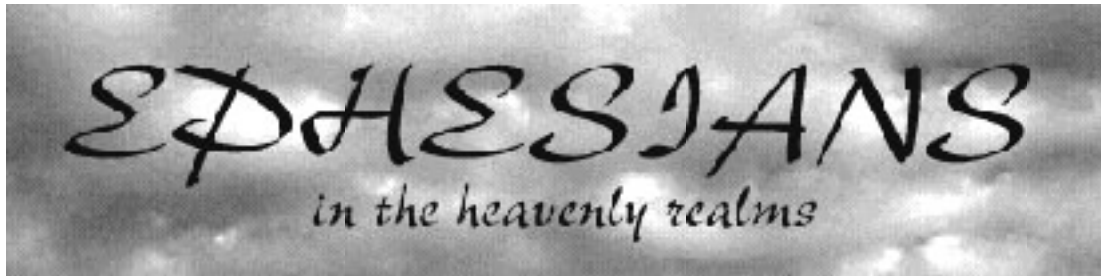
C. Glorious Blessings in Christ (Eph 1:13-14)

In Him, the gospel of
you also your salvation-
 after listening the message of truth,
 -having also believed
 you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
who is given as a pledge of our inheritance,
with a view to the redemption of God's own
possession,
to the praise of His glory.

Eternity plays itself out in time, not only in the apostles' lives or the believers of the apostle's time but also in our lives. God's will purposed in eternity bears fruit on earth.

Process of Growth

- Sowing: Evangelization: Hearing the Gospel
- Sprouting : Regeneration: Believing the Gospel
- Sold: Baptism of Spirit: Sealed with the Spirit



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What about God's Sovereignty and the free will of man?

When we look through Ephesians 1:1-14, where do we see God's will exercised and where do we see man's will exercised?

Everything of consequence is done "in Him," because the totality of redemption is found in the plan and purposes of God. It is totally inadequate to think that man because of His "free will" is an independent player in this redemptive plan. There is totally no place for man's pride. Everything occurred in Christ and for the glory of God.

What are our responses to these chapters?
