

Ephesians

*Many are the plans in the mind of a man,
but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.*

Proverbs 19:21



Review – 1:1 thru 2:10

Bless Him for blessing us in Christ . . .

*³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places,*

When we think of being blessed by God, what are we
typically referring to?

How does Paul's praise to God for His blessings
differ from that?

God's Cosmic Plan (so far)

Action	Verse
Election	Ephesians 1:4
Adoption	Ephesians 1:5
Redemption and Forgiveness	Ephesians 1:7
Revelation of God's Mystery	Ephesians 1:9
Unification	Ephesians 1:10
Inheritance	Ephesians 1:11, 1:14
Sealing by the Holy Spirit	Ephesians 1:13–14

It's exciting to be part of His plan!

From 1:3-14 —

He chose us in Him; our spiritual position or identity

Adopted us as sons

Sealed us by His Spirit

Unite all things in Christ at the fullness of time

(Christ will build His church!)

The Thrill is Gone!

. . . according to the purpose of His will . . .

How can we remain excited about God *working all things according to the purpose of His will* when we don't like how His will is affecting our plans?

Prayer for wisdom and revelation

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him,

¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, **that you may know**

what is the hope to which He has called you,
what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and
what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe,

back to the cosmic plan

What does Paul's prayer (*vv. 17-19*)
have to do with God's cosmic plan?

back to the cosmic plan

Why does Paul think we need –

the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him

back to the cosmic plan

Why does he think we need to know the **whats** –

what is the hope to which He has called you,
what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and
what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe,

. . . a great oneness in Christ . . .

Everything, for the apostle, as he looks forth upon the empire, centers in the purpose of God. The discord between the elements in the church, the distinction between Jew and Gentile, all these must yield to the greater purpose of God -- to gather into one the whole created universe, to restore harmony among His creatures and between them and Himself.

The vision is of a great oneness in Christ and through Him in God, a oneness of birth and faith and life and love, as men, touched with the fire of that Divine purpose, seek to fulfil, each in himself, the part that God has given him to play in the world, and, fighting against the foes of God, to overcome at last.

Charles Smith Lewis, [“Ephesians, Epistle to The.”](#) ; *ISBE*

. . . a great oneness in Christ . . .

So – will we allow ourselves to be touched with the fire of God’s Divine purpose – His cosmic plan -- and seek to fulfill the part that God has given us to play in our home, church, job, with family and friends, in the world?

Step 1. _____

BUT God!!
