

Two Basic Themes in the NT:

1. How people are redeemed by God and brought into a right relationship with him
2. How those who are spiritually saved must continue to live in relationship with God.

Ephesians 1:1-14 ESV

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

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

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus 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, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for *adoption* to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

We are In Christ –

“Every spiritual blessing” and every practical issue of life relate to being “in Christ”

(i.e., being united with Jesus and in right relationship with him)

We are Chosen and Destined in Jesus Christ –

“The goal of redemption is “to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth” (10)

We are Saved and Enlightened through Jesus Christ –

3 Key Words: Purpose. Counsel. Will

“Behind the plan and the counsel was not just a mastermind but a heart of love.”

We are Unified in Christ and Sealed with the Holy Spirit –

As Christ is the Bridegroom and the church is the bride, so the Holy Spirit is the down payment, the earnest money, in the long-awaited marriage of the two.

(Revelation 19:7)