

## Sermon Supplement

### Ephesians 1:1-14 – *To the Praise of His Glorious Grace*

#### UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

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1. **Main Idea of the Passage:** God is to be blessed because he has blessed us with the glorious gospel. God's glorious gospel of sovereign grace is for all peoples.
2. **Melodic Line of the Letter:** The two become one for His glory. God the Father, through God the Son, by the power and presence of God the Spirit, is making a multi-ethnic people for the purpose of His glory, based in his eternal plan, in this final age.

#### KEY WORDS/THEMES

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1. election/predestination – God unilaterally and lovingly chooses us.
2. grace – God chooses based on his love and his resume, not ours.
3. adoption – sonship and inheritance by God's sovereign will.
4. praise – the heartfelt theology of glorious grace, gratitude, growth in holiness, and delight
5. Spirit – the seal and guarantee of our future.
6. mystery – God's covenant promises being extended to the nations.
7. temple – God's people in whom his presence dwells.
8. inheritance – God's people are His treasure.

#### STRUCTURE/OUTLINE

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1. Greetings (vv. 1-2)
  - A. Paul - an apostle
  - B. Written from Roman imprisonment
  - C. A circular letter to several churches in Asia Minor
  - D. Grace and peace from the Triune God
2. Theology on Fire (vv. 3-14)
  - A. The glorious gospel of sovereign grace (vv. 3-10)
    - i. God is to be blessed, because he has blessed us. (v. 3)
    - ii. Chosen to be holy and blameless (v. 4)
    - iii. Predestined to be adopted (vv. 5-6)
    - iv. Purchased us by redeeming us from sin through grace (vv. 7-8)
    - v. Revealed mystery to unite all things in Christ (vv. 9-10)
  - B. The glorious truth that sovereign grace is for all peoples (vv. 11-14)

## **GOSPEL CENTRALITY**

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God the Father plans and purposes our salvation, Christ accomplishes it, and the Holy Spirit secures it. God did it all! God gets all the credit and glory! We are so blessed! God deserves our continual and unending gratitude and praise.

## **KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN**

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1. How does Paul's word on 'adoption' (v. 5) engage your heart?
2. How does this passage ignite your longings for the kingdom of God in its fullness? Describe your longings. In what ways do others in the group relate?
3. Is there anything the Spirit has put on your heart to share in order to be known by one another? Share with your group.

## **RESPONDING IN PRAYER**

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1. Ask that God would take this drama and put it in our hearts.
2. Confess the other narratives you've allowed to dominate your heart and mind.
3. Ask God to replace those false narratives or small narratives with this grand narrative.
4. Ask God to make you more thankful than ever at his glorious grace and that your gratitude would overflow in the life of love.