

Ephesians | Peace to You

Ephesians 1:1-14

Pastor Taylor Terzek

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[15] When the servant of the man of God got up early and went out, he discovered an army with horses and chariots surrounding the city. So he asked Elisha, "Oh, my master, what are we to do?" [16] Elisha said, "Don't be afraid, for those who are with us outnumber those who are with them." [17] Then Elisha prayed, "LORD, please open his eyes and let him see." So the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he saw that the mountain was covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. [2 Kings 6:15-17]

"Apocalyptic literature" breaks us out of our limited perspective in order to see the world as it really is.

"Ephesians, then, functions to radically alter and reorient our vision of reality in the most comprehensive sense. Paul wants us to inhabit a new story, to take on a new and renewed set of practices, to see ourselves as part of a radically different and outrageously life-giving story of God redeeming the world in Jesus Christ." – Timothy Gombis, *The Drama of Ephesians*, pg. 23

[1] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will: To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus. [2] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. [Ephesians 1:1-2]

[3] Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ. [4] For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. [5] He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, [6] to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One. [Ephesians 1:3-6]

[7] In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace [8] that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding. [9] He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ [10] as a plan for the right time -- to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him. [Ephesians 1:7-10]

[11] In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the

purpose of his will, [12] so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory. [Ephesians 1:11-12]

[13] In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. [14] The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory. [Ephesians 1:13-14]

Emphasis: God be praised.



Why? **God has worked something in Christ and God's people are in Christ.**

*... as **a plan** for the right time -- **to bring everything together** in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him. [Ephesians 1:10]*

“This is a new way of stating an old vision, the prophetic vision of new creation and of the shalom [peace] it will bring into being for all creation.” – Michael Gorman, *Becoming the Gospel*, pg. 188

It for this purpose Paul is praising God: the gospel of peace has come in Christ.

- Anxiety disorders are the most common mental illness in the U.S., affecting 40 million adults in the United States age 18 and older, or 18.1% of the population every year.
- Nearly one-third (31.9%) of adolescents (ages 13-18) had an anxiety disorder between 2001 and 2004.
- About half of U.S. 18–35-year-olds express anxiety; and almost 40% said they often felt sad or depressed or lonely and isolated from others.

Real and present peace comes when our lives are harmonized with God's design.

As the people of God, we are in Christ and therefore participate in his life and mission.

The mission of God's people is fueled by the worship of God's people.

How to Respond

1. Worship reorients our reality.

Worship gatherings need to remind us of the good news of Jesus every week.

2. Worship rehearses the story.

Worship gatherings need to incorporate participatory elements.

3. Worship remakes us for the mission.

Worship gatherings need to equip and send out God's people.

