

I. Intro

A. Text: **Eph. 1:3-6**

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. (Eph. 1:3-6)

B. Ephesus Background

1. Major port city in Asia Minor
 - a. Map
 - b. Site of the Great Temple of Diana
2. Ephesus was the recipient of one of the 7 letters that Jesus addressed through the hand of John in (**Rev. 2 & 3**).
 - a. **Rev. 2:2-5:** *²I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. ⁴Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent."*
3. Paul spent over 2 years ministering in Ephesus (**Acts 19:10**)
 - a. Sons of Sceva
 - b. Great riot because the silversmith profession had been threatened.
4. Paul shared a close bond with Ephesus.
 - a. Sent for the elders of the city to give his famous good-bye.

- i. **Acts 20:22-23:** ²² And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. ²⁴ But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself...
- ii. **Acts 20:26:** ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

5. While awaiting trial in Rome, Paul wrote this circular letter to the churches in the Ephesus area.

- a. God's mystery is revealed: The uniting of many into one body.
- b. Details the purpose of the church on earth: To express the fullness of Christ on Earth.
 - i. Both theological and practical in its content.

C. Greeting

¹ *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph. 1:1-2)*

II. Body

A. God Has Blessed Us With Every Spiritual Blessing (v.3)

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. (Eph. 1:3)*

- 1. Blessed be God → “*Praise be to God*”
 - a. God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing known unto heaven.
 - b. Some of which angels are still scratching their heads at.
 - i. The blessing of redemption.

2. Chose us...

⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (Eph. 1:4)

- a. Selectively chose some out of many.
- b. Fact: Some (many) will reject Him.
 - i. Fact: All whom God has chosen, chose Him.
- c. The Doctrine of Election can never be divorced from the Doctrine of Free Will.
 - i. God is completely sovereign & predestines the end from the beginning.
 - ii. But man is responsible for answering the call.

** The biblical doctrine of election refuses to let our own comfort rule in place of God's word. It is not a comfortable feeling to say at the same time, "God is totally sovereign" and, "Man is wholly responsible." But this is the testimony of God's word, and we cannot silence either truth in order to secure a theology which fits easily in our categories. – John Piper*

- d. God chose you... Before the Foundation of the world...
 - i. If anything can tear down your selfish pride, it should be the fact that God chose you before the foundation of the world.
 - ii. He chose you before you ever did anything right.
- e. God chose us for Holiness and Blamelessness (v.4)

⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (v.4)

- i. That which He declares for us, He will accomplish for us/ in us.

3. Predestined us... for adoption by the blood of Jesus (v.5)

⁵having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, (Eph. 1:5)

- a. **Predestined:** *To determine the end before the beginning.*
 - i. That which God decrees from eternity past.
- b. We were predestined to be sons and daughters.

4. Accepted us in the Beloved. (v.6)

⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. (Eph. 1:6)

- a. We who've been chosen (for holiness and blamelessness) and predestined (for adoption), are finally at home: Accepted.

Accepted (charitoo #5487): *to in due with special honor, to be highly favored (graced), to be made charming/lovely.*

- i. Accepted, with no need to seek approval from other sources.

5. Still More in Him

⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, (Eph. 1:7-8)

- a. Redemption by His blood

Redemption (apolytrosis #629): *to be ransomed out of a thing, liberation that is procured by a payment, to be bought back from bondage.*

- b. Forgiveness of sins
- c. The riches of His grace abounds toward us.

B. Revealed the Mystery of His will

⁹having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, (Eph. 1:9)

- 1. God has revealed the deep treasures of His will apart from any human influence or input.
 - a. God is completely right, just, kind, fierce, good.
 - b. The good pleasure of His will toward us, is not motivated by us.

2. His will: To gather together a people for Christ(**v.10**)

¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. (Eph. 1:10)

- a. In the fulness of times, to gather together all in Christ
- b. *All things are from Him (made by Him), through Him (held together by Him), and all things are for Him (Rom. 11:36)*

C. God has prepared an inheritance that is beyond our imagination

¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; (Eph. 1:11-13a)

- 1. We who've trusted in the gospel have an inheritance (in Him). (**v.11-13**)
 - a. Our inheritance is in Him.
 - b. We who trusted in the gospel enjoy countless benefits that have already been disbursed.
 - c. And we've got so much more to look forward to.
- 2. But until the final inheritance is disbursed, God has given us a down payment.

¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. (Eph. 1:13-14)

- a. We will enjoy the redemption of our entire mind, body and spirit. (**v.14**)
- b. But until the full promise is realized, God sealed the deal with Holy Spirit of Promise. (**v.13b**)
- c. Holy Spirit is a down payment of the great coming reward. (**v.14**)

Guarantee (arrabon #728): earnest money, security deposit, down payment (with the promise of much more to come).

- i. Certain Money with much more to come afterward.

III. Conclusion

A. The Source: Everything Is From Christ, through Christ and to Christ.

1. In Him
 - a. *“He chose us in Him...” (v.4)*
 - b. *“Predistined to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ unto Himself” (v.5)*
 - c. *“Made us accepted in the Beloved” (v. 6)*
 - d. *“In Him we have redemption” (v.7)*
 - e. *“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ ... - In Him” (v.10)*
 - f. *“In Him you also trusted,... in whom you believed.” (v. 13)*

B. Motive: All for the praise of the Glory of God’s Grace

1. Scriptural References
 - a. **Eph. 1:6:** *“⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace...”*
 - b. **Eph. 1:12:** *“¹²that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.”*
 - c. **Eph. 1:14:** *“...to the praise of His glory.”*

*Although God had eyes on you and me from before the foundations of the world, his highest aim was not to “praise” us.

2. God’s highest aim has always been to bring praise and attention to the glory of His grace.

“For My own sake, for my own sake, I will do it... And I will not give my glory to another” (Is. 48:11)

- a. God loves man passionately, fiercely, but the motive of God’s love for mankind is not attached to the goodness or the faithfulness of mankind.

- i. God's motive for love is found in God Himself.
- b. So that we would never get confused, God timed His grace toward us to remove human-exaltation and replace it with God-exalting picture of grace.
 - i. *"For when we were without strength, Christ died for the ungodly" (Rom. 5:6)*
 - ii. *"When we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son" (Rom. 5:10)*

- 3. The God without flaw or blemish has a passion to reveal His glory.
 - a. God's glory is best displayed in His grace toward mankind.
 - i. In ages to come, God will be unveiling the mysteries of his grace toward us.
- 4. The motive for God's compassion toward man is unprecedented: The praise of His own glory.