

# Ephesians 1:1-14:

## Gloriously Predestined by a Triune God

### I. Salvation comes from our triune God

#### The Father authors

- ❖ Ephesians 1:3-5--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 as sons

#### The Son accomplishes

- ❖ Ephesians 1:5--he predestined us for adoption as sons **through Jesus Christ**, according to the purpose of his will
- ❖ Ephesians 1:7--In him we have redemption **through his blood**
- ❖ Ephesians 1:9--making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, **which he set forth in Christ**

#### The Spirit applies

- ❖ Ephesians 1:13-14--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
- ❖ Titus 3:4-6--But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the **washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit**

### II. God maintains absolute sovereignty

#### God determines His servants and their role

- ❖ Ephesians 1:1--Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus **by the will of God**
- ❖ John 15:16--No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 **You did not choose me, but I chose you** and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide
- ❖ 1 Samuel 16:1--The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons

#### God determines whom He will save

- ❖ Ephesians 1:4-5--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 as sons through Jesus Christ, **according to the purpose of his will**
- ❖ Ephesians 1:11--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
- ❖ Romans 9:8-16--This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. 9 For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.” 10 And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, 11 though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— 12 she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” 13 As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.” 14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! 15 For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy

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### God determines everything

- ❖ Ephesians 1:9-11--*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***
- ❖ Proverbs 16:33--*The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord*
- ❖ Daniel 4:35--*all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done*

### III. God's absolute sovereignty is meant to rejoice us

- The Westminster catechism states it this way... "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever." In other words, everything we come to learn about God ought to cause us to praise and glorify God and fill us with infinite, eternal joy.
- Many Christians, rather seeing God's absolute sovereignty as a cause of rejoicing, see it as unjust, unloving, unfair, etc. This is quite foolish because it assumes that the world would be a more just, loving, and fair place if God were not absolutely sovereign over it. Would man do a better job than the most holy, most just, most loving, most merciful, most powerful being in the universe? Of course not! God's absolute sovereignty should cause us to rejoice! We should be overwhelmed with joy that our God reigns and has not let one thing happen that was not part of his perfect, loving, just, glorious plan! This is the example Paul sets...

### God's absolute sovereignty grants us...

1. Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (v.3)
2. Adoption as sons (v.4)
3. Redemption (v.7)
4. Forgiveness of our trespasses (v.7)
5. A guaranteed inheritance (v.11 & 14)
6. That we would be instruments of His glory (v.12)

### God's absolute sovereignty stirs us to passionate praise

- "Doctrine rightly understood leads to doxology. If we discover who God is and what He has done for us we will praise Him!"
- ❖ Ephesians 1:5-6--*he predestined us for adoption 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*
- ❖ Romans 11:33-36--*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" 35 "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen*

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<sup>1</sup> James Montgomery Boice, *Ephesians: An Expository Commentary*. p.8.