

Eph 1:7-10

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 on us. In all wisdom and insight 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

1. **Ephesians 1:10 (NLT)** And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ--everything in heaven and on earth.
 - a. What we can't allow ourselves to forget is there's a grand and eternal story going on. One that started LONG before you and I came into the picture.
 - b. It is the story of God creating:
 1. **Genesis 1:1 (NASB)** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
 2. **Genesis 1:27 (NASB)** God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
 3. **Colossians 1:16 (NASB)** For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.
 4. **Revelation 4:11 (NASB)** "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."
 - c. Why did He do all of this creating:
 - i. **Romans 1:20 (NASB)** 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
 - d. It's the story of His creation falling away from Him:
 - i. **Romans 1:21-25 (NASB)** 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to

impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 **For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie**, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

e. Finally, it's the story of God redeeming His creation:

i. **Romans 5:6-9 (NASB)** 6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

f. So this is the eternal story or plan then, right? Well not completely. The story we just reviewed is simply a by-product of the larger story and plan. That story or plan has always been this:

i. **Ephesians 1:10 (NLT)** And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ--everything in heaven and on earth.

g. We see here that the plan always has been, always will be, about Jesus Christ. Our part in that plan has always been to simply be contributors (evidences?) to His honor and glory.

h. There is a very grand plan that God has set in motion. That plan is the revealing of His nature and character. He has chosen to do this through His Son.

i. **Colossians 1:15-22 (NLT)** 15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was **created** and is supreme over all **creation**, 16 for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see-- such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. 17 He existed before anything else, and he holds all **creation** together. 18 Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. 19 For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, 20 and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. 21 This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. 22 Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

ii. **Revelation 5:1-14 (NASB)** 1 I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. 4 Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; 5

and one of the elders *said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.” 6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. 7 And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. 8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they *sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.” 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.” 13 And every **created** thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” 14 And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

i. This is the plan, that Jesus Christ be exalted above everything!

II. In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.

- a. In Him - verse 11 doesn’t start with this prepositional phrase but it is what begins the sentence that is verses 11 and 12.
- b. Each time Paul has given us an “In Him” it’s been tied to a spiritual blessing. We need to continue that theme here.
- c. What is the spiritual blessing tied to the “In Him” this time?
 - i. **“we have obtained an inheritance”**
 - ii. The inheritance we have coming is really described in two ways in scripture. One is sure (salvation) and the other is conditional (sanctification).
 - iii. **Inheritance** - kleronomia (kla-ro-no-me’-ä) - what is given to one as a possession
 1. the eternal blessedness of the consummated kingdom of God which is to be expected after the visible return of Christ
 - a. **Galatians 3:18 (NASB)** For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.
 2. the share which an individual will have in that eternal blessedness

- a. **Acts 20:32 (NASB)** “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
 - b. **Ephesians 5:5 (NASB)** For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.
3. Which one is Paul describing here? Paul is speaking of the sure or salvation inheritance here.
- a. Notice the tense that Paul describes this inheritance of ours: **“obtained.”** The rewards that we will receive for the caliber of our fellowship with Him are not sure so therefore they are not already “obtained.”
 - b. **Predestined** - we learned from verse 5 that those who are in Christ are predestined for certain things (i.e. new bodies). In this passage it means those who are In Him are predestined for the inheritance that every believer will receive (being in the Kingdom).
 - c. Verses 13 & 14 seem to confirm this as well: ***13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.***
 - d. **Sealed** - sphragizo (sfrä-ge'-zo) - in order to mark a person or a thing
 - to set a mark upon by the impress of a seal or a stamp
 - e. In other words the Holy Spirit is God’s way of sealing you and assuring you that you are His.
 - f. This also helps put verse 12 in a little more context then as well. In verse 12 Paul says: ***12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.***
 - The ***“we who were the first to hope in Christ”*** is referring to the Jews.
1. **Romans 1:16 (NASB)** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.