

**“In Him”
Eph. 1:7-14**

God is the beginning and the end

- This passage starts with “in Him” and ends with “to the praise of His glory”
- “We matter but we’re not the point” (Scotty Smith).
- “When Paul began to speak of God’s blessings to us in salvation he went back before the creation of the world to God’s eternal will, saying that salvation began when God chose us in Jesus Christ (v.4) He then showed how that will of God unfolded itself in history, first in the work of the second person of the Godhead in providing redemption from sin, and then in the work of the third person of the Godhead in applying that work to the individual. At this point he introduces the idea of God’s purpose, showing it to be that God himself might be glorified. In other words, everything we have in Christ comes from God and returns to God, beginning in his will and ending in his glory. It is God-centered from beginning to end” (James Montgomery Boice, *Ephesians*, p. 32).

In Him we have redemption

- **In Him we have redemption through His blood,**
- “In Him” – in the One who He loves
 - This passage, this whole sentence is saturated in the love of God
 - Mark 1:11 – “You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.”
 - *Illustration:* Cora’s cozy blanket
- avpolu, trwsin - *redemption* (lit. ‘buying back’), *deliverance, acquittal, ransoming, loosed*
 - *Illustration:* wool hat
 - “loosed” – “My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.”
- **the forgiveness of our trespasses,**
 - *trespasses* – transgression, debts or sins
- **according to the riches of His grace**
 - God has something that is so much better than money, He has grace and He purchases us with that grace.
 - “Those whom God effectually calls, He also freely justifies; not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous; not for any thing wrought in them, or done by them, but for Christ’s sake alone; nor by imputing faith itself, the act of believing, or any other evangelical obedience to them, as their righteousness; but by imputing the obedience and satisfaction of Christ to them...” (Westminster Confession of Faith, 11.1)
 - **which He lavished on us.**
 - *Illustration:* Robin Leach, MTV Cribbs – but more!
 - Not self-indulgence, but lavished. *Illustration:* Butlers’ house
 - **In all wisdom and insight**
 - *Application:* Engage you brain!
 - Ask God for these (Col. 1:9)

In Him we have communication

- **He made known to us the mystery of His will,**
 - “In Bible language a mystery is something that formerly was unknown, but is now revealed. What Paul reveals in this verse is that God’s ultimate purpose in redemption is “to bring all things in heaven and on earth together” again under Jesus Christ” (James Montgomery Boice, *Ephesians*, p. 24).
 - **according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him**

- **with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times,**
 - **that is, the summing up of all things in Christ,**
 - summing up – to unite (ESV), to gather up
 - “in Christ” – not only “the One who He loves”, but even more: “the One who EVERYTHING is gathered up in”!
 - *Illustrations:* gathered up – scuba diver
 - Summed up – this section, plus...
 - Unite – slaves and free, men and women (Col. 3:11)
 - **things in the heavens and things on the earth.**
 - *Application:* look around you – everything is summed up in Christ
 - Worship now or worship later; every knee will bow (Phil. 2:10-11)

In Him we have predestination and responsibility

- We often think that God’s predestining work, the counsel of His will, is at odds with man’s responsibility. It’s almost as if to make a caricature of God’s predestining will. Something along the lines of Him being the mad scientist and man being robots. Whereas the opposite is true with man’s responsibility; the caricature is that man can do absolutely whatever he please and can chose whatever he wants and make of himself whatever he wants to be. NEITHER of these is true! Scripture unflinchingly and unapologetically puts God’s sovereignty, His predestining will, right next to and in conjunction with man’s responsibility. Paul does it right here in verses 11-14.

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance,

- **having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,**
- **to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be**
- **to the praise of His glory.**

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, 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) A seal is used to confirm an object or document as being true or genuine, (2) a seal is used to mark a thing as one’s property, and (3) a seal is used to make something fast or secure. The first may be illustrated by the seal of the United States which appears on paper currency or by the seal affixed to a passport. The second is like a nameplate on the fly leaf of a book. The third is illustrated by the seal of the Sanhedrin placed upon the tomb of Christ” (James Montgomery Boice, *Ephesians*, p. 32).

In Him we have salvation

- How to become a Christian from verses 13 and 14
 - *Application:* listen, believe, be sealed (God’s work)
- The Gospel has always had outsiders in view (Gentiles)