

Ephesians 1.3-14

"Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost"

WHO is YOUR God? – Capital G or Small g or NO G – No God at All!

Question may seem very ETHERIAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, or NONSENSE

For APOSTLE Paul in City of Ephesus > Matter of LIFE & DEATH

CITY of EPHESUS – ¼ Million in 1st C – Nearly in RIOT STAGE

...a huge ruckus occurred over what was now being referred to as "the Way." A certain silversmith, Demetrius, conducted a brisk trade in the manufacture of shrines to the goddess Artemis, employing a number of artisans in his business. He rounded up his workers and others similarly employed and said, "Men, you well know that we have a good thing going here - and you've seen how Paul has barged in and discredited what we're doing by telling people that there's no such thing as a god made with hands. A lot of people are going along with him, not only here in Ephesus but all through Asia province. "Not only is our little business in danger of falling apart, but the temple of our famous goddess Artemis will certainly end up a pile of rubble as her glorious reputation fades to nothing. And this is no mere local matter - the whole world worships our Artemis!" That set them off in a frenzy. They ran into the street yelling, "Great Artemis of the Ephesians! Great Artemis of the Ephesians!" They put the whole city in an uproar, stampeding into the stadium... *Acts 19.23-29 The Message*

Screaming CROWD filled 25,000 Seat Amphitheater in ZEALOUS RAGE

But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him...urging him not to venture into the theater. *Acts 19.30,31*

Paul sees CROWD his INSTINCT is PREACH CHRIST – No Matter COST

Paul willing to GIVE his Life > Knowing Jesus Christ is Matter of Life & Death

Much CALMER & QUIETER Setting in a LIVING ROOM Some Time Ago

Young Lady & Man COUNSEL as they will GET MARRIED Soon

Woman TEARFULLY gave Christian Testimony > Tears of Conviction

Year Ago – Quit Church – Moved in HANDSOME Man – *I chose him to be 1st!*

Young Man Open – Pleasant, Friendly – Not Against God, No Strong Opinion

Allegiance to GOD > Touches ALL Areas of MARRIED LIFE, ALL Life
 Non-Xtian Man complained Wife's FAITH in Jesus – JEALOUS, 2nd Husband
 Wants to TALK to HIM before she talks to him / Highest Allegiance / RIVAL!

How you SPEND Time – Obviously Sunday, Daily Prayer, Fellowship, Friends
 Where you GO – Schedule ORDERED around what PLEASES God First of All
 MONEY – Collect ALL World's BAUBLES & BLING – Simple, Sacrificial??
 KIDS – Worship, Educational Philosophy, Moral Development, Friendships

Allegiance to God TOUCHES Everything – Jesus, Allah, Buddha, KING Elvis!
 No God to Follow – YOU become god – Order Universe own Glory: **Mormons**

FINAL Meeting with Ephesian Church ELDERS – describes 3 yrs of Ministry

“...I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house...I did not shrink from *declaring to you the whole counsel of God*”
 Acts 20.20,27

MANY Think All the same God anyway / All Roads lead to God

Illus. - Yesterday I bought a Table, you have Table in Your House,

THUS - You have MY table in YOUR house! - LOGICAL FALLACY

God of the Bible / Only God who SAVES - One God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
 John 17.3

Not SURPRISING – Paul begins Letter w/ FULL DESCRIPTION of GOD

1 LONG, BREATHLESS, 203 Word God-honoring SENTENCE OF PRAISE

1. Plan of the Father – Architect of Salvation

a. Chosen – Cogs in a Huge Factory?

v. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

CHOSEN / PREDESTINED / ELECTED - Salvation is God's Initiative

NOT JUST ISRAEL - Whole People of God - Church NO AFTERTHOUGHT

Doctrine Raises many Questions – Cannot be DENIED – Clearly Taught in Bible

NOT Invented by Calvin of Geneva, Augustine of Hippo, or Paul of Tarsus

Eternal Plan and Purpose of All-Wise, Sovereign, God

You Thought "I ACCEPTED Christ" – GOOD – You MUST do SO!

But Long before you were Born God ACCEPTED YOU IN CHRIST

"We love because, he first love us" 1 John 4.19

My name, your name, and the names of every believer...were upon His heart before he brought a star into place, or before the planets were started whirling in their orbits.

Louis T. Talbot

b. Adopted – Children of a Heavenly Father!

v. 5 In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ

"to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become the children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision – but born of God"

John 1.12,13

"we have received the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, Abba, Father. So you are no longer a slave, but a son"

Galatians 4.6,7

Roman Law - ADOPTED child - Full Rights and Privileges / More than Natural

WHEN – v. 4 he chose us in him before the foundation of the world

WHY - because we are Good? - NO

you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked Ephesians 2.1,2

Because we will be Servants? ZGC Ministry?? - NO

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand Ephesians 2.10

Because God "saw" our choice? Determined by our Free Will? - NO

when we were dead in our trespasses, (he) made us alive Ephesians 2.5

...faith - this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God Ephesians 2.8

Adoption is the perfect antidote to legalism...churches I attended preached a list of things one had to do to be a "good Christian"...Adoption is a legal procedure which secures a child's identity in a new family...we don't get kicked out of the family because of our behavior...Nothing can undo the legal procedure that binds me to Christ...He signed the adoption papers with His blood. Robert Peterson

God does NOT Adopt us because we are SO CUTE and CUDDLLY

Sin has made us REPULSIVE – DEFORMED – DEFACED – Crack Babies

v. 4,5 In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ

Our ONLY Beauty is because HE is BEAUTIFUL and we are Hidden IN HIM

2. Purchase of the Son – Accomplished our Salvation

a. Redemption – Freedom for the Captives

v. 7 redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins

MEANING "to be set free through payment of a price"

FORGIVENESS = "to carry away" // Scapegoat carried sins into wilderness

HE IS LAMB OF GOD - carries away sin - as far as east is from the west

By Blood > GREAT REDEMPTION DID NOT COME CHEAP

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed...but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.
1 Peter 1.18,19

BLOOD - WORD TOO GRAPHIC & GROTESQUE FOR MANY TODAY
NOTHING PRETTY ABOUT ROMAN EXECUTION ON CROSS

Redeem NOT RELIGIOUS WORD - surprised? - COMMERCIAL TERM
MARKETPLACE LANGUAGE - WORD FOR BUYING AND SELLING

OT BACKGRD - firstborn animals and children BELONGED TO GOD
MUST BE BOUGHT BACK "redeemed" / ALL BELONGED TO LORD
NATION OF ISRAEL - needed redemption from Egypt

'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment' Exodus 6.6

ROLE OF BOAZ - became Ruth's "Kinsman Redeemer" - Picture of X
HE BUYS US TO LOVE US AS A BRIDEGROOM

GREEK BACKGROUND - days of City-States at war w/eachother
Hand to hand combat -SWORDS & STONES - CAPTURE YOUR ENEMY
VICTORS INFORMED VANQUISHED - willing to sell back such people
ANCIENT PROCESS CALLED "redemption" verb "to redeem"
anyone who carried it out "Redeemer" - money paid "Ransom"
60 MILLION SLAVES IN ROMAN EMPIRE -

Jesus: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10.45

the redemption that came by Christ Jesus Romans 3.24

Jesus: "if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" John 8:36

b. Reconciliation – Future for the Cosmos

vs. 9-11 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ...according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the promise of his will

GOD'S PLAN IS TO UNITE ALL REDEEMED UNDER CHRIST

TODAY in Every Nation – GOSPEL Seed is Planted - Adversity & Advance

Jesus Christ the PROMISE Keeper IS Building His Church – Unstoppable

7th Angel blow TRUMPET & Announce EVERLASTING KINGDOM OF SON

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." Revelation 11.15

BEGINS NOW - "All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me" Mt 28.18

v. 10 "together under one head" - lit. ADMINISTRATION OF HOUSEHOLD

INCLUDES ALL THE UNIVERSE

The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed... creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. Romans 8.19-21

NEW Creation will make APEC BLUE look like SMOGGY DAY

"Christ is faithful as a son over God's house" Hebrews 3.6

3. Promise of the Spirit – Applies our Salvation
 FATHER - ARCHITECT OF PLAN OF SALVATION
 SON - ACCOMPLISH THE WORK OF SALVATION
 SPIRIT - APPLY THE BENEFITS OF SALVATION

Word Trinity is not in the Bible - TRUE /so also word Bible
 COINED TO EXPRESS BIBLICAL TRUTH - One God, Three Persons
 Bible - Practical, Personal, WHAT GOD F/S/HS HAS DONE FOR US!!

a. Possession of God – Proves the Promise of Scripture

v. 11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined

v. 11 - NOT A REPEATING OF vs. 4,5 - FULFILLMENT OF THEM
 CHOSEN IN ETERNITY // CHOSEN IN TIME - EFFECTUAL CALLING

HS CALLS OUT THOSE WHO ARE CHOSEN - GIFT OF FAITH GIVEN

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Romans 8.16

PRESENCE OF THE FUTURE – Fast-Forwarded Future into Here & Now

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as
 his heritage! Psalm 33.12

HOLY SPIRIT IS FORETASTE

v. 3 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,

HEAVEN COMES TO US BEFORE WE GO TO HEAVEN

vs. 13,14 the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our
 inheritance until the redemption

"first installment" "downpayment" "pledge" "deposit"

SAME WORD USED IN MODERN GREEK FOR "engagement ring"

the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
Ephesians 4.30

WE HAVE RICHES IN CHRIST - Sons wanted ATM card -drive to machine \$

H.S. ATM CARD - GOD'S INEXHAUSTIBLE ACCOUNT OF GRACE

MEMA - PIN CODE IS J - E - S - U - S

v. 13 Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit

WORD SEAL CAN HAVE 3 DIFFERENT MEANINGS

- 1) Seal used to confirm if document is genuine - seal on RMB Note
- 2) Seal used to mark object as one's property - name plate on book
- 3) Seal used to hold something secure -seal placed on Jesus' tomb

ALL 3 APPLY TO WORK OF HOLY SPIRIT

Seal of Hope v. 12 we, who were the first to hope in Christ

the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage Deuteronomy 32.9

HONEST STRUGGLE WITH DOUBT - CRISIS OF FAITH - UNCERTAINTY

WHAT DOES HOLY SPIRIT DO IN ONE'S LIFE??

Jesus: "the Counselor will...come to you...When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment" John 16.7,8

CONVICTION WITH HOPE - HE POINTS TO SAVIOR FROM SIN

Jesus: "when he, the Spirit of truth, comes...He will bring glory to me" John 16.13,14

DANGER OF RESISTING HOLY SPIRIT - CONSCIENCE SEARED, NUMB

JEW AND GENTILE UNITED IN CHRIST

v. 11 we JEWS were also chosen

v. 13 And you GENTILES also were included in Christ

v. 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our ALL IN CHRIST inheritance

2000 YRS OF SEPARATION - BITTERNESS STILL IN MIDDLE EAST
WORLD MAKES MANY DIVISIONS = ethnic, social, economic, academic

GOD ONLY HAS ONE DIVISION - IN CHRIST OR OUTSIDE OF X
SAVED FROM SIN / LOST IN SIN -- DESTINY OF HEAVEN OR HELL
ANYONE IN CHRIST - my brother or my sister

NO MATTER ethnic, social, economic, academic STATUS

PRACTICAL DIFFERENCE IT MADE IN EARLY CHURCH

China's Highest Value – HARMONIOUS Society – Only Happen in Jesus

eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body
and one Spirit
Ephesians 4.3,4

b. Promise of God – Preach the Power of Scripture

v. 13 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

PREACHING the Scriptures is way people RECEIVE the Holy SPIRIT

EXAMPLE OF PAUL IN PISIDIAN ANTIOCH

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord;
and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. Acts 13.48

The Holy Spirit always speaks through and with the Word of God, the Bible, and
it not to be separated from it. The Holy Spirit never speaks or works apart from
Scripture.
James Boice

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. John 10.27

WITHOUT THIS CALL WE'D NOT COME - NO INTEREST IN COMING

For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.
2 Corinthians 6.2

By Word > MEANS BY WHICH GOD DRAWS US TO HIMSELF

SPIRIT OF GOD WORKS WITH THE WORD OF GOD - SPIRIT OF TRUTH

the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God Ephesians 6.17

UNDERSTAND SPIRIT OF GOD? - MUST KNOW WORD OF GOD

UNDERSTAND WORD OF GOD? - MUST HAVE SPIRIT OF GOD

TEMPTED TO BE ASHAMED // Gospel TOO SIMPLE -MAKE IT CLEVER

Palestinian JEW - HUNG NAKED ON CROSS - GOD!?! SAVIOR WORLD?!?

PAUL PREACHED THE GOSPEL IN PHILLIPI

One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.
Acts 16.14

MINISTRY NOT BASED ON PERSONALITY - POWER OF WORD

How grieved the Holy Spirit must be when He enters a church desirous of applying the Word of God to sinners but finds the preacher giving a discourse about buttercups, daisies, human literature, man's accomplishments, and other things He cannot use to save men...the devil does not care what you preach as long as you don't preach Christ, you may preach temperance, social schemes, abolition of war: you may preach many good uplifting things. If, however, you are not preaching Christ crucified, Christ risen, and Christ coming again Satan is laughing at you...for he knows your ministry is a complete failure. Louis T. Talbot

SPIRIT DRAWS PEOPLE THROUGH WORD OF GOD

faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ
Romans 10.17

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for Jew, then for the Gentile. Romans 1.16

1. Wonder

Any Hope 4

Disciples AFRAID, RICH, YOUNG, RELIGIOUS Ruler – NOT Saved – Them?

Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life Matthew 19.28,29

v. 28 Greek *in the regeneration* / “in the new world” ESV / “at the renewal of all things” NIV

v. 10 a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth

In the fullness of time, God’s two creations, his whole universe and his whole church, will be unified under the cosmic Christ who is the supreme head of both.

John Stott

WHY?? v. 5 according to the purpose of his will

God says, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion" Romans 9.15

He is the potter / we are the clay

Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Matthew 11.25-27

2. Worship

Salvation NOT 50% GOD + 50% MAN - NOT EVEN 1% MAN // 100% GOD
SINCE Salvation is ALL of SOVEREIGN GRACE - GOD GETS ALL GLORY

v. 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

v. 6 to the praise of his glorious grace

v. 12 in order that we...might be for the praise of his glory.

v. 14 to the praise of his glory.

JOHN CALVIN "Paul's frequent mention of the glory of God should not be seen as meaningless, for what is infinite cannot be spoken of too much. All godly tongues will be ready to utter His praises as their ears will be open to hear them. For if men and angels combined their eloquence on this theme, it would still fall far short of greatness. There is no stronger refutation to shut the mouths of the ungodly, than by showing that we defend, but they obscure, the glory of God."

GLORIFY GOD = MAKE GOD BIG IN THE EYES OF OTHERS

WORK OF GOD IN PAST - PREDESTINATION, REDEMPTION

WORK OF GOD IN PRESENT - ADOPTION, GIFT OF HOLY SPIRIT

WORK OF GOD IN FUTURE – RECONCILIATION of New Creation in X

3. Work

v. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Let no one say that the doctrine of election...makes either evangelism or faith unnecessary. The opposite is the case. It is only because of God's gracious will to save that evangelism has any hope of success and faith becomes possible.

John Stott

(Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God by J.I. Packer)

PURPOSE - "to be holy and blameless in his sight"

HOLY and BLAMELESS - NOT PERFECT AND SINLESS - Make things right

Acknowledge sin - Come to God forgiven - Power to walk w/ Him

ZGC take Months to Study Ephesians – FIRST Read in Eph Ch in MINUTES

Something we ALL Could – AND SHOULD – Do Ourselves

...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love
Ephesians 4.1,2

put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor
Ephesians 4.25

doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need
Ephesians 4.28

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you....Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another Ephesians 4.31,32

Just Chapter 4 – More about Husbands, Wives, Parents, Kids, Bosses, Workers...

Finish Letter reminding we are ENGAGED in SPIRITUAL WARFARE

"You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last."
John 15.16

Christ gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness Titus 2.14

SOVEREIGNTY of God – Clearly taught in ALL Bible – No excuse for SLOTH
Apostle who CLEAREST Exponent of Election – Worked hardest in Evangelism

Paul compares self to other Apostles: "I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me"
1 Corinthians 15.10

Ephesians 1.³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In 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, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In 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, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.