

Ephesians 1:3-14 Teaching Outline #1.

Two standard approaches to the passage:

1. The Work of the Trinity in Salvation.

- A. The Father *SELECTS.* V3-6.
- B. The Son *SAVES.* V7-12.
- C. The Spirit *SEALS.* V13-14.

2. The Identification of the Spiritual Blessings of Believers.

- A. Election. V4.
- B. Predestination. V5, 11.
- C. Adoption. V5.
- D. Grace. V6, 7.
- E. Redemption. V7, 14.
- F. Forgiveness. V7.
- G. Revelation. V9, 10.
- H. Union w. Christ. V10.
- I. Gospel. V13.
- J. Ministry of the Spirit. V13, 14.

3 Blessed be the **God and Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all **spiritual blessings** in heavenly places **in Christ:**

4 According as he hath chosen us **in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by **Jesus Christ** to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted **in the beloved.** (no period in Greek)

7 **In whom** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself;

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things **in Christ**, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even **in him:**

11 **In whom** also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted **in Christ.** (no period in Greek)

13 **In whom** ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: **in whom** also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that **holy Spirit** of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Three problems with the standard approaches:

- 1. Neither approach considers the fact that this is **one sentence** in the original Greek.
- 2. Neither approach considers the Greek or English **diagram of the sentence.**
- 3. Neither approach considers the **Jew / Gentile feature** of the book.

Ephesians 1:3-14 Teaching Outline #2.

3 **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

Having (who hath) blessed us with all spiritual blessings

in heavenly places

in Christ:

4 According as he hath chosen us

in him

before the foundation of the world,

that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 **Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children**

by Jesus Christ

to himself,

according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace,

wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. (no period in Greek)

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood,

the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

9 **Having made known unto us the mystery of his will,**

according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things
in Christ,

both which are in heaven,

and which are on earth;

even in him:

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance,

being predestinated according to the purpose of him

who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory,

who first trusted in (*the*) Christ. (no period in Greek)

13 In whom ye also trusted,

after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation:

in whom also after that ye believed,

ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance

until the redemption of the purchased possession,

unto the praise of his glory.

Observations.

1. Basic proposition (subject / verb).
2. Three parallel participial phrases.
(Verb, participle, aorist tense, active voice, nominative case, masculine gender, singular person)
3. Repeated use of the first person, plural, pronouns, “us”, “we”, and “our” in verses 3-12.
4. Transition to second person, plural, pronoun, “ye” in verse 13.
5. Return to first person, plural, pronoun, “our” in verse 14.

Outline of Ephesians 1:3-14 based on Greek / English sentence diagram.

Basic proposition of the sentence: **God be blessed!** [Eulogized, well-spoken-of] (Why?)

1. **He has blessed us with spiritual blessings.**

- A. In heavenly places.
- B. In Christ.
 - 1) He has chosen **us** in Him.
 - 2) He has chosen **us** in Him before the foundation of the world.
 - 3) He has chosen **us** in Him that we should be holy and without blame in love.

2. **He has predestinated us unto the adoption of children.**

- A. By Jesus Christ.
- B. To Himself according to the good pleasure of His will.
- C. To the praise of the glory of His **grace**.
 - 1) Grace accepted **us** into the Beloved, Jesus Christ.
 - 2) Grace provided redemption through His blood.
 - 3) Grace provided forgiveness of sins.
 - 4) Grace abounded in wisdom and prudence.

3. **He has made known unto us the mystery of His will.**

- A. He willed in Himself according to His own good pleasure.
- B. He willed to gather all the affairs of heaven and earth under **one Head, Jesus Christ**.
- C. He willed that **believing Jews (us)** obtain an inheritance.
 - 1) They were predestined according to His purpose.
 - 2) They were to the praise of His glory.
- D. He willed that **repentant Gentiles (ye)** be sealed by the Holy Spirit.
 - 1) They had heard and believed the Word of truth.
 - 2) The Holy Spirit had sealed them.
 - A) With the earnest of their inheritance.
 - B) Until the redemption of the purchased possession.
 - C) Unto the praise of His glory.

The Jew / Gentile feature of the passage.

1. Transition in pronouns from FIRST person to SECOND person in verse 12.
2. Phrase “who first trusted” in verse 12 means “who hoped in advance of other confirmation”.
3. Phrase “in Christ” in verse 12 should be translated “in **the** Christ”, including the definite article in the Greek.
4. Phrase “ye also trusted” indicates a distinct party from the Apostle and those with whom he coupled himself.
5. Phrase “ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise” identifies the means by which Jewish Christians came to understand that the Gentiles had also been given the Gospel.
 - A. Samaritan Christians were confirmed by the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:14-17.
 - B. Gentile converts in Caesarea were confirmed by the Holy Spirit. Acts 10:44-47; 11:15-18.
 - C. Ephesian converts of John were confirmed by the Holy Spirit. Acts 19:1-7.
6. Context of Ephesians 2:1-10 continues the Jew / Gentile feature.
7. Context of Ephesians 2:11-22 continues the Jew / Gentile feature.
8. Context of Ephesians 3:1-21 continues the Jew / Gentile feature.
9. Context of chapters 1-3 is consistently eulogizing God; the thought begins in 1:3 and ends in 3:20-21.
10. Paul’s purpose is recognizing that IN CHRIST, believing Jews and Gentiles make ONE BODY!