

WORSHIP NOTES

GOD'S PLAN: SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS FOR ALL

Ephesians 1:3-14 (ESV)

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, 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 to himself 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. 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 upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 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, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 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, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

1. The Father's plan for the unity of all things in Christ.

Praising the Father (1:3-14)

- for the Father's love before time
- for the Father's love in His Son at the right time
- for the Father's continuing love by the Spirit through time

2. Are you predestined to go to hell?

The concept of Election

- Key passages: Ephesians 1:3-14; Romans 8:28-30; Romans 9-11 (esp. 11:31-32)
- Election as selection, both corporate and individual

- Abraham as the father of all who trust in God, first the Jews then all Christians
 - A heart commitment – “circumcision of the heart”
 - Faith in Christ

- Calvin versus Wesley

- Election unto faith versus election because of faith

- Wesley's two concerns
 - Character of God
 - Character of the Christian Life
- Wesley's six points
 - Total Depravity
 - Universal Atonement
 - Prevenient Grace
 - Resistable Grace
 - Predestination Based on Foreknowledge
 - Assurance of Salvation

- N. T. Wright: election of individuals reoriented toward the election of the community and God's call to holiness and mission in reconciling the world to himself

3. Praising God for his blessing of election for all who believe