 ***“TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY!”***

#  Ephesians Chapter 1:1-14

***> (v1-6) TO THE PRAISE OF THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE!***

**(v1) How is one called an *APOSTLE*?**

**- Of the original apostles their names were: (1) Simon Peter (Cephas, Barjona); (2) Andrew; (3) John; (4) Philip; (5) James; (6) Bartholomew (perhaps same as Nathanael); (7) Thomas (Didymus); (8) Matthew (Levi); (9) Simon the Zealot; (10) Jude (Thaddaeus); (11) James the Less; (12) Judas Iscariot.**

**- The original qualification of an apostle, as stated by Peter (Acts 1:21-22), was that he should have been personally acquainted with our Lord's ministry, from His baptism by John to His ascension. After the death of Judas Iscariot and Jesus' ASCENSION, the apostles brought their number back to twelve by choosing Matthias (Acts 1:23-26).**

**- Paul based his apostleship on the direct call of the exalted Lord who appeared to him on the Damascus Road and on the Lord's blessing of his ministry in winning converts and establishing churches (1 Corinthians 15:10).**

**- The authority committed to the apostles by Christ was unique. It could not be transmitted to others. Apostolic authority could not be transferred. Their authority has not come to us through their successors; it has come through their writings, which are contained in the New Testament.**

**- Who is a *SAINT*?**

**Unger’s Bible Dictionary defines a *saint* as: “*All* the saved of the NT era are saints (*hagioi*) by virtue of their *position* "in Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:2; cf. Romans 6:3-4; 8:1; Ephesians 1:3; etc.).**

**- The NT refutes the idea of a special class of "saints." Although it is true that *in experience* some believers are more "holy" than others, yet in their position before God all believers are "sanctified," i.e., saints by virtue of what they are "in Christ."”**

**- Nine times Paul addresses his readers as *saints* in Ephesians 1:1,15,18; 2:19; 3:8,18; 4:12; 5:3; 6:18.**

**- Are you a *SAINT* or an AIN’T?**

**(v2) What is *GRACE* (Gk. – *Charis*)? – Favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that same person deserves.**

**- *Grace* is one of the key attributes of *God.* The *Lord God* is *"merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth"* (Exodus 34:6). The grace of *God* was supremely revealed and given in the person and work of *Jesus Christ.* Jesus was not only the beneficiary of *God's grace* (Luke 2:40), but He was also its very embodiment (John 1:14), bringing it to mankind for salvation (Titus 2:11). By His death and resurrection, Jesus restored the broken fellowship between God and His people, both Jew and Gentile. The only way of salvation for any person is *"through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ"* (Acts 15:11).**

**- The grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ is applied to human beings for their salvation by the *HOLY SPIRIT,* who is called *"the Spirit of grace"* (Hebrews 10:29). The Spirit is the One who binds Christ to His people so that they receive forgiveness, adoption to sonship, and newness of life, as well as every spiritual gift or grace (Ephesians 4:7). (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)**

**- Everyone needs *PEACE* - The *peace* that Jesus Christ spoke of was a combination of hope, trust, and quiet in the mind and soul, brought about by a reconciliation with God. In John 14:27-28 - *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.***

(v3) Have you counted how many SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS you have in CHRIST given to YOU by our heavenly FATHER?

(1) GRACE; (2) MERCY; (3) PEACE; (4) LOVE; (5) GOODNESS; (6) KINDNESS; (7) FORGIVENESS; (8) ETERNAL LIFE; (9) GOD’S FAMILY; (10) A NEW BIRTH; (11) THE HOLY SPIRIT; (12) HIS WORD; (13) VICTORY OVER SATAN; (14) HOPE FOR ETERNITY; (15) HEAVEN; (16) GLORIFICATION; (17) JOY; (18) ANSWERS TO PRAYER; (19) PROVISION; (20) JESUS – WHO WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU, NOR FORSAKE YOU! (Etc., etc., etc.)

**(v4-6) Warren Wiersbe summarizes *election and predestination* in a unique and insightful manner, he writes, “*He has chosen us (v. 4).* This is the marvelous doctrine of *election*, a doctrine that has confused some and confounded others. A seminary professor once said to me, "Try to explain election and you may lose your mind. But try to explain it away and you may lose your soul!" That salvation begins with God, and not with man, all Christians will agree. *"Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you"* (John 15:16). The lost sinner, left to his own ways, does not seek God (Romans 3:10-11); God in His love seeks the sinner (Luke 19:10). Note that God chose us even before He created the universe, so that our salvation is wholly of His grace and not on the basis of anything we ourselves have done. He chose us in Christ, not in ourselves. And He chose us for a purpose: to be holy and without blame. In the Bible, election is always *unto* something. It is a privilege that carries a great responsibility. Does the sinner respond to God's grace against his own will? No, he responds because God's grace makes him willing to respond. The mystery of divine sovereignty and human responsibility will never be solved in this life. Both are taught in the Bible (John 6:37). Both are true, and both are essential.**

***- He has adopted us (v. 5).* Here we meet that misunderstood word *predestination.* This word, as it is used in the Bible, refers *primarily* to what God does for saved people. Nowhere in the Bible are we taught that people are predestined to hell, because this word refers only to God's people.**

**- The word simply means *"to ordain beforehand, to predetermine."* Election seems to refer to *people*, while predestination refers to purposes. The events connected with the crucifixion of Christ were predestined (Acts 4:25-28). God has predestined our adoption (Ephesians 1:5), and our conformity to Christ (Romans 8:29-30), as well as our future inheritance (Ephesians 1:11).**

**- Whose child, are you? Turn to 1 John 3:1-10**

* **All of this is *to the praise of the glory of His GRACE!* (v6)**

***> (v7-12) TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY FOR REDEMPTION!***

**- What is the meaning of *REDEMPTION?***

**- Deliverance by payment of a price. In the New Testament, redemption refers to salvation from sin, death, and the wrath of God by Christ's sacrifice.**

**- The New Testament emphasizes the tremendous cost of redemption: "the precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:19; Ephesians 1:7), which is also called an atoning sacrifice, "a propitiation by His blood" (Romans 3:25).**

**- Believers are exhorted to remember the "price" of their redemption as a motivation to personal holiness (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 1:13-19). The Bible also emphasizes the result of redemption: freedom from sin and freedom to serve God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**- Christianity is the only religion that offers complete *FORGIVENESS!***

**No religious book except the Bible teaches that God completely forgives sin (Psalms 51:1-17; Isaiah 38:17; Hebrews 10:17). The initiative comes from Him (John 3:16; Colossians 2:13) because He is ready to forgive (Luke 15:11-32). He is a God of grace and pardon (Nehemiah 9:17; Daniel 9:9).**

**- Sin deserves divine punishment because it is a violation of God's holy character (Genesis 2:17; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Peter 1:16), but His pardon is gracious (Psalms 130:4; Romans 5:6-8).**

**- In order for God to *forgive sin*, two conditions are necessary:**

**(1) A life must be taken as a substitute for that of the sinner (Leviticus 17:11,14; Hebrews 9:22), and (2) the sinner must come to God's sacrifice in a spirit of repentance and faith (Mark 1:4; Acts 10:43; James 5:15).[[1]](#footnote-1)**

* ***That we who first trusted in CHRIST SHOULD BE TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY!***

***(v13-14) TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT!***

**(v13) Believers are SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT – C.I. Scofield writes, “In the symbolism of Scripture a *seal* signifies:**

**(1) *a finished transaction* (Jer. 32:9-10; Jn. 17:4; 19:30);**

**(2) *ownership* (Jer. 32:11-12; 2 Tim. 2:19); and**

**(3) *security* (Est. 8:8; Dan. 6:17; Eph. 4:30).”**

**> The PERSONALITY of the Holy Spirit- The Holy Spirit relates like a *person***: He speaks whatsoever He ***hears*** (John 16:13); He came into the world to ***glorify*** Jesus Christ (John 16:14); He ***reproves*** the world of ***sin*** (John 16:8); He ***teaches*** (John 14:26; 16:13-15); He ***speaks*** (Galatians 4:6); He ***intercedes*** (Romans 8:26); He ***leads*** (Galatians 5:18; Acts 8:29; 10:19; 13:2; 16:6,7); He ***appoints*** to ***service*** (Acts 13:2; 20:28); He ***regenerates*** (John 3:6); He ***seals*** (Ephesians 4:30); He ***baptizes*** (1 Corinthians 12:13); He ***fills*** (Ephesians 5:18); He can be ***quenched*** (1 Thess. 5:19); He can be ***grieved*** (Ephesians 4:30); He can be ***blasphemed*** (Matthew 12:31); He can be ***lied to*** (Acts 5:3).

* **THE PROMISE! – John 14:14-18 (the Helper / the Spirit of truth)**
* **THE PURPOSE! – John 14:26 (teach); 15:26-27 (testify); 16:7-15 (convict of sin & tell you things to come)**
* **THE POWER! – Acts 1:4-8 (Evidence thereof is found in Acts Ch. 2 to the present!)**
* ***LET’S PRODUCE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT* - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and gentleness, and self-control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)***

***- These first three qualities express the GOD-WARD aspect of the Christian life:***

**- *LOVE - agape*, which means divine love. This divine love is God’s gift to us - Rom 5:5- *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* We need to pray that we abound in *agape love* - Philippians 1:9-11- *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.* Only as we live in love can we fulfill the will of God in our lives. The believer must be love-inspired, love-mastered, and love driven.**

**- *JOY* - God’s love in our hearts produces everlasting joy! This is a holy optimism that keeps us going no matter what the circumstances.**

**- *PEACE* - Not the peace with God which we have in justification (Ro. 5:1), but the peace of God in our hearts, and can be defined as tranquility of mind based on the consciousness of a right relationship to God.**

**- *The next three express the MAN-WARD aspect of the Christian life:***

 ***LONGSUFFERING* - Courageous endurance without quitting.**

***GENTLENESS* - Kindness.**

***GOODNESS* - Love in Action!**

**- *The final three qualities are SELF-WARD:***

***FAITH* - Faithfulness, dependability.**

***MEEKNESS* - the right use of power and authority, power under control.**

***SELF-CONTROL* - a mastery of fleshly desires & impulses.**

***JOY is love’s STRENGTH!***

***PEACE is love’s SECURITY!***

***LONGSUFFERING is love’s PATIENCE!***

***KINDNESS is love’s CONDUCT!***

***GOODNESS is love’s CHARACTER!***

***FAITHFULNESS is love’s CONFIDENCE!***

***GENTLENESS is love’s HUMILITY!***

 ***SELF-CONTROL is love’s VICTORY!***

1. Nelson’s Bible Dictionary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)