

## Ephesians - Identity and Inheritance

Ephesians 1:1-14 (ESV)

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the **saints** who are in Ephesus, and are **faithful in Christ Jesus**:
- 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 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. Our new Identity in Christ.**

Verses 1-6

### **2. The Mystery of His Will.**

Verses 7-10.

### **3. Our Glorious inheritance in Christ.**

Verses 11-14.

**1:9** Paul now explains the particular way in which God has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence, namely, by making **known to us the mystery of His will**. This is the dominant theme of the Epistle—the glorious truth concerning Christ and the church. **It is a mystery, not in the sense that it is mysterious, but that it is a sacred secret previously unknown but now revealed to the saints.** This glorious plan originated in the sovereign will of God, quite apart from any outside influences: it was **according to His good pleasure**. And the grand subject of the plan is the Lord Jesus Christ; this is indicated by the clause, **which He purposed in Himself**.

Many people want to know their election before they look to Christ. But they cannot learn it thus; it is only to be discovered by ‘looking unto Jesus.’ Look to Jesus, believe on Him, and you shall make proof of your election directly, for as surely as you believe, you are elect. If you will give yourself wholly up to Christ and trust Him, then you are one of God’s chosen ones. Go to Jesus just as you are. Go straight to Christ, hide in His wounds, and you shall know your election.

Christ was at the everlasting council. He can tell you whether you were chosen or not, but you cannot find out in any other way. Go and put your trust in Him. There will be no doubt about His having chosen you, when you have chosen Him.

- Charles Spurgeon