

## Ephesians 1

The apostle Paul took his responsibility to preach the word of God very seriously. In all of his letters, especially to the predominantly Gentile churches, he spent a great deal of time explaining to those Gentile Christians just exactly what God had done for them. In his opening words to the Ephesians (Ephesians 1:3-14) there are a number of things Paul says about God's nature, His plan, and just how He accomplished his plan for all of us as His children.

In spite of our disregard for Him, God: “chose us” (verses 9 and 11), “predestined us to be adopted as His sons” (verses 6), “made known to us the mystery” (verse 9), and “guaranteed our inheritance” (verse 13). God wanted us to know that we are His adopted sons and daughters who will eventually live with Him throughout eternity.

And just WHY did He do all this? God “loves us” (verse 4), it was “in accordance with His good pleasure and will” (verses 6 and 9), and it was “in conformity with the purpose of His will.” (verse 11). God, according to Peter in 2 Peter 3:9, does not want “anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” This is His will, what He wants, and it gives Him pleasure to grant redemption and welcome us all to live with Him.

Just HOW did God accomplish this? “In Christ” (verses 3,12, and 13), “through Christ Jesus...the One He loves” (verse 6), in Him (verse 7, 11, and 13) and “through His blood” (verse 7). It wasn't until Christ came and sacrificed Himself that God's “mystery,” just how to redeem mankind, could be revealed.

Just WHAT is the effect of all of this?

1. We receive a spiritual blessing (verse 3)
2. We are considered holy and blameless in His sight (verse 4)
3. We receive redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins” (verses 7 and 14)
4. We have the riches of God's grace lavished on us (verses 7 and 8)
5. We are give hope (verse 12)
6. We receive salvation (verse 13)

God loves us and wants us to be His children, so that through Jesus Christ and because of His sacrifice, He can give us our inheritance: redemption and salvation. The message given to the Ephesians (and to us) is just that simple.