

EPHESIANS 1. 1-14

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the very will of God,
to the select ones in Ephesus
even to the believers in Christ Jesus.
- 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father!
And from the Lord Jesus Christ!
- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
who has blessed us with every possible, genuine and spiritual benefit
in the heavenly realm included in Christ.
- 4 Just think about what He has done--
He selected us, He picked us out, He included us in Him
before the world was even blueprinted, to be His special and flawless children.
- 5 From love for us He predestined us to be His adopted children
through our big brother, Jesus Christ.
That's just like Him to accomplish by His very will the things that make Him merry.
- 6 And all the credit goes to His ever more glorious grace which he lavished upon us,
we who are included in the One Loved Inestimably, Jesus.
- 7 Included in Him we have redemption through His blood.
We actually have the forgiveness of our sins.
That's just like Him to spread around that inexhaustible fortune of His grace
- 8 which he lavished upon us.
In total wisdom and total insight
- 9 He revealed to us the secret mystery of His will.
That's just like Him to make merry by purposing the things which include Christ,
- 10 making them like a blueprint to be completed when the time is ripe.
And what secret do the blueprints reveal? Are you ready for this?
To gather together and bring to fulfillment everything in Christ,
the things in deepest heaven and the things on planet earth, all of them together in Him.
- 11 In Him we Jews also have obtained our inheritance
because we were predestined according to the plan of God,
who makes everything happen in coordination with the deliberate intent of His will.
- 12 God's objective was that we Jewish believers who were the first to hope in Christ
might display and applaud the glory of God,
His ability to change lives.
- 13 In Him you, too, you Gentiles also believed after you listened to the message of truth,
the gospel of your salvation.
And after you also believed in Him,
you were marked with a seal, the Holy Spirit, Himself the Promise.
- 14 The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance,
an inheritance whose purpose is the total redemption of God's own possession--us,
that we might display and applaud the glory of God.