

EPHESIANS 1. 3-14 PAUL'S DOXOLOGY

The epistle to the Ephesians is a circular letter (see COL 4.16) sent to several different churches which were in Ephesus and in cities around it in Asia Minor. Notice the absence of personal greetings at the close of the letter.

Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon were all written at the same time in 61-62 AD from house arrest in Rome and delivered by Tychicus (a slave name meaning "fortune," he was the Howard Guertler of the NT) in a bundle with some other letters Paul wrote (e.g. letter to the Laodiceans).

Paul's style is not argumentative nor didactic nor topical. It's certainly not in straight line. Here in chapters 1 and 2 Paul is rhapsodic. Paul is extravagant and enthused about the infinite wonder of Jesus Christ. Notice the way Paul repeats ideas and especially the way he strings together prepositional phrases (e.g. 1.6, literally "...to the praise of the glory of his grace..." instead of saying "...to his praise..."). Paul's thoughts keep blending into one another. In Greek EPH 1. 3-14 is just one sentence! And verses 15-23 are just one more! Consequently, outlining Paul's thinking is like dissecting a river. It is impossible. When you line up gallon jugs of water on a dock, it is not a river any more.

Four streams which run through Ephesians 1. 3-14.

1 **We are chosen. We are selected. God took the initiative!**

--We are chosen before creation 1. 4,11

--We are predestined 1. 5,11

Paul strings repetitive phrases for emphasis.

V.9 "...mystery of his will/ according to his good pleasure/ which he purposed..."

V.11 "...according to the plan/ of him who works out everything/ in conformity with the purpose/ of his will..."

God acts out of his **eudokia** -- good pleasure, delight, that which makes one giddy

2 **"IN CHRIST". Jesus has infinite preeminence!**

-- The phrase "in Christ" or "in him" appears **12 times** in 14 verses.

V. 9-10 WHAT IS THE MYSTERY OF HISTORY?

History is HIS-story, Jesus' story. **All things** will be consummated in Jesus Christ.

3 **We are blessed beyond calculation.**

-- v.4 "to be holy" different, distinct, special, select

-- v.4 "to be blameless" flawless. Not square pegs in round holes. Our feet slip easily into the glass slipper.

--v.5 "to be adopted sons and daughters" We belong.

--v.7 "to have redemption through his blood"
--v.7 "to receive the forgiveness of our sins"

4 **We are God's inheritance, God's heritage!**

We are to be God's treasured possession v.11, 13(implied). See also EX 19.5; DEUT 14.2, 32.9; PS 74.2; MAL 3.17.

We belong to the Prince of Glory!

We have the seal of God's promises, God's down payment, the Holy Spirit who is the agent of God's inner working and the guarantee of the work's completion v.14.