

Sermon Notes & References  
To the Praise of His Glory  
Ephesians 1:11-12  
March 9, 2008

A. Introduction

- 1. from the context
- 2. the text: <sup>10b</sup> In Him <sup>11</sup> also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.<sup>13</sup> In Him, you also ...
- 3. the link of love and praise<sup>A</sup>

B. The Fact of the Heritage is to God's Glory . . . . . 10b-11a

- 1. the translations of this verse
- 2. the Old Testament background<sup>B</sup>
- 3. portion, possession, inheritance and relationship<sup>C</sup>

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<sup>A</sup> Psalm 34:2, Galatians 6:14  
<sup>B</sup> Joshua 18:10, 1 Kings 21:3  
<sup>C</sup> Deuteronomy 4:37-38, Joshua 22:19, Jeremiah 10:16, Leviticus 26:12, Revelation 21:3

C. The Achievement of God's Purpose is to God's Glory . . . . . 11b

- 1. how did God's plan of redemption come about?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.

D. Those Hoping in Christ are to the Praise of His Glory . . . . . 12

- 1. as applied to us as Christians<sup>D</sup>
- 2. with whom is God dealing in verses 3 to 11?
- 3. with whom is God dealing in verse 12<sup>E</sup>?
- 4. what are some ways that their salvation, in particular, glorifies God?

E. Conclusion - from these verses I have learned ...

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<sup>D</sup> John 14:2-3  
<sup>E</sup> Romans 11:5

—{1}. **Ephesians 1:11-12** . . . . . **To the Praise of His Glory**

A. Introduction

1. since the start of the year we have been studying Ephesians
  - a. the subject of this book is God's people, the church
  - b. after the opening greeting, Paul launches into praise
    - (A) for God's work of redemption in Christ
    - (B) in Greek, it's one long sentence, covering verses 3–14
  - c. last week we looked verses 9–10; at how God,
    - (A) in appointing and ordering His household,
    - (B) things in heaven, things on earth,
    - (C) in the fulness of time, that is, at just the right season,
    - (D) made known the mystery of His will:
    - (E) His eternal plan of salvation for men and women.
2. our text begins with the last words in verse 10, "<sup>10b</sup> In Him <sup>11</sup> also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup> In Him, you also ..."
3. since we are, as it were, interrupting Paul in mid-sentence
  - a. what Paul has to say will only be wrapped up as a package
  - b. when we look at its final verses next week
  - c. which bring to a denouément
    - (A) the purpose of God,
    - (B) the mystery of His will,
    - (C) the plan of redemption
  - d. but these verses are an appropriate place to rest awhile
    - (A) to stop and consider a truth repeated in this passage
    - (B) verse 6: 'To the praise of the glory of his grace ...'

- (C) verse 12: '[... would be to the praise of his glory](#)'
- (D) verse 14: '[... unto the praise of his glory](#)'
- e. that truth is this; that
  - (A) while all that God has done has been to our benefit
  - (B) His plan has another necessary and designed result
  - (C) namely, praise to the glory of God
  - (D) also; the repetition in verse 12 of this truth has a special application to us here at Faith Fellowship

4. '[... to the praise to His glory](#)'

- a. stop and think for a moment of what you have observed
  - (A) when a boy and girl fall in love
  - (B) you only need mention his name to her; or hers to him
  - (C) to be subjected to a paean of praise;
  - (D) relating what their beloved said ... did ... are like
  - (E) so that, indeed, it may be just a bit too much to take
- b. yet, how great it is when after 20 or 40 or more years, to observe a husband and wife who have grown together even more closely, that when they talk of their spouse, cannot but boast of who and what they are
- c. and from this we learn a singular and important truth: praise is the natural and joyful result of love relationship
- d. that's why God's people of all ages delight in praise
  - (A) to Him, "[My soul will make its boast in the LORD; The humble will hear it and rejoice.](#)" (Psalms 34:2)
  - (B) and to His works, "[But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.](#)" (Galatians 6:14)
  - (C) and when our love relationship with God is perfected in heaven, how natural it will be that we shall delight in our praise of Him and His deeds!
  - (D) no wonder we have the hymn-writer saying, '[... and throughout eternity I'll sing your praises ...](#)' <sup>{2}</sup>.

5. here in verses 11-12 are three things giving praise to His glory

- a. the Fact of God's Heritage
- b. the Achievement of God's Purpose
- c. those Hoping in Christ

B. The Fact of the Heritage is to God's Glory (verses 10b–11a)

"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, ..."

1. now this has been translated in various ways
  - a. the AV and NKJV are just about the same as the NAS
  - b. the NIV, 'In him we were also chosen, ...'
  - c. the Roman Douay version is, perhaps, the most literal, '... in him. In whom we are also called by lot ...'
  - d. the ERV (1881) and ASV (1901), perhaps the best, '... in him, / say, in whom also we were made a heritage,'
  - e. why such a diversity of translation?
2. well, this verb is used only once in the New Testament
  - a. in classical Greek, its basic form means 'cast the lot, choose by lot, allot' <sup>-{3}</sup>; this was also its everyday meaning in the secular society of the first century
  - b. but the form used here is the passive, that is, the action is upon us: 'we were cast lots for, we were chosen by lot, we were allotted to'
  - c. which makes it sound as though it was accidental
  - d. now, as often is the case for Christians, the meaning of words is flavoured by their use in the Old Testament
  - e. let's capture that flavour by some quotes
    - (A) it was used in reference to the 'portion assigned by lot to each tribe in the promised land, and of the Holy Land itself as Israel's possession given by God' <sup>-{4}</sup>.
    - (B) Joshua 18:10: "And Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD, and there Joshua divided the land to the sons of Israel according to their divisions."
    - (C) now let's develop this O. T. idea further, '... the portions of land assigned by lot to the tribes of Israel on their entrance into Canaan were secured inalienably, and the lots belonging to each family were so secured to the family from father to son that it was impious to let them go into the hands

of strangers (cf. Naboth...)' –{5}.

(D) thus the word had a religious meaning of 'inheritance'

f. that this verb meaning 'to cast lots' bears with it the idea of inheritance is also borne out by the New Testament use of related nouns meaning 'portion, heritage, or inheritance'

3. but, to show further the translator's difficulties

a. if I am assigning the land by lot to the people, I am also assigning the people by lot to the land – there is a two-way relationship between the people and the land

b. so you may appreciate why the verse is translated both as the people of God obtaining and as being an inheritance

c. that relationship leads to another relationship

4. a possession between the people of God and God Himself

a. because while the land was given to Israel for its possession (Deuteronomy 4:37-38): "Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them ... to bring you in *and* to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is today.", it was also God's possession

b. for in speaking to the tribes who had settled Transjordan, Joshua 22:19 says, "If, however, the land of your possession is unclean, then cross into the land of the possession of the LORD, where the LORD'S tabernacle stands, and take possession among us. ..."

c. from which it is but a short step to see that Israel was God's possession and inheritance; at the same time God was Israel's possession and inheritance: Jeremiah 10:16, "The portion {or possession} of Jacob is not like these; For the Maker of all is He, And Israel is the tribe of His inheritance; The LORD of hosts is His name."

5. and this fact, the mutual possession of God and His people

a. Leviticus 26:12, "I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people." echoed in Revelation 21.

b. is accomplished in Him, in Jesus Christ: '...God is the Source and Christ the Medium of the soul-melting counsel of redeeming love. It "flows from the heart of the Father through the blood of the Son" (John Owen) –{6}.'

6. that fact of this heritage is to the praise of His glory!

C. The Achievement of God's Purpose is to God's Glory (verse 11b)

“...having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,”

1. we have spoken about God's plan of redemption

a. over the past several weeks

b. as it has been unfolded in these verses in Ephesians

c. and we have seen before, as is repeated now, that,

d. as A. Skevington Wood has written, 'it is no accident that God has allotted to his new people in Christ the inheritance designed for those who recognize the Saviour. In no sense are we to think that Christians have somehow usurped Jewish privileges. Before time began, God marked out those in Christ to be co-heirs with his Son. Whatever he decides is put into effect, for he is the one who ensures that everything is worked out in line with his own will.' —{7}.

e. how this verse emphasizes this truth!

2. first, it is one that is 'predestined according to His purpose'

a. how do you and I plan when we have a project?

(A) if it something trivial, we just do it

(B) but, if it is at all complex, then we plan

(C) Maureen has been making drapes over the past few months – to keep in the heat in the winter, and out in the summer – and has spent a great deal of time in measuring, calculating, and drawing out what to do

(D) with out limited human wisdom, we plan

b. but our God is one of infinite wisdom

(A) having foreknowledge, having insight

(B) and, as we have seen over the past few weeks

(C) He has laid out a plan of redemption

(D) one that stood outside of and before creation

(E) all that has happened since was no accident!

3. second, it is one in which He '[works all things](#)'
  - a. the all here is absolute and unrestricted: it is without any qualifying limitation or description
  - b. God's foreordaining people to relationship to Himself is integrated with God's foreordaining things universal
  - c. read Romans 8:28 to the end of that chapter and see that the plan of salvation is an integral part of God's total plan
  - d. the God of His people, of His elect, of His children is the sovereign God of the universe
  
4. and third, it is one which is '[after the counsel of His will](#)'
  - a. there is a deliberation involved in these words
  - b. it was not just an inclination by God, but a set purpose
  - c. one mark of false concepts of God is that they depict Him as being capricious, of being arbitrary, of acting on whim
  - d. God, in planning our salvation, in establishing His decrees that rule His universe, has done so with reason
  - e. and though these be secret and beyond our understanding, they are yet perfect to God, '[the counsel of His will](#)'
  
5. the achievement of His purpose it to the praise of His glory!

D. Those Hoping in Christ are to the Praise of His Glory

["... to the end that we who were the first to hope in {the} Christ would be to the praise of His glory."](#)

1. before looking more carefully at this verse in applying it
  - a. let us note that there is one valid application to us here this morning, namely, that our salvation, what God has done for and in us, is all to be to the praise of His glory
  - b. this truth is found in this passage as a whole
  - c. how humbling this is! How aware we are that our words, in our thoughts, in our actions, in our plans, in our works fall short of being '[to the praise of His glory](#)'
  - d. in our hearts we feel, as in the traditional old hymn

... God is so good to me  
I don't serve Him as I should  
I don't deserve all of His goodness,  
So many things are not as they should be,  
But God is so good to me –  
I fall so short, oh! so many times  
And evil thoughts come into my mind; ...

e. can such a person as I 'be to the praise of His glory'?

f. very briefly, two reasons

(A) because our lives witness hope to the world around us

(1) hope essentially is future faith

(2) living not for the present material age but eternity

(B) two, the object of our hope is Jesus Christ

Many things about tomorrow

I don't seem to understand;

But I know Who holds tomorrow,

And I know Who holds my hand. —{8}.

(1) God's purpose is that we live in hope on Jesus

(2) on Jesus Christ, who promises, "<sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also."

(John 14:2-3)

(C) but there is another, important application in these words and one that is appropriate to this church and particularly in the week of Missionfest when the Fast's and Willard's have been engaged in making known the need for ministry among the ancient people of God

(D) redeeming a Jew is especially to the praise of His glory

2. let me explain why this verse says this is so

a. Paul after opening this book, addressing his readers, immediately switches to the first person plural: 'our, we' whereby he groups his audience with himself



- b. verse 3: He is OUR Lord; He has blessed US
  - c. verse 4: He chose US ... that WE would be holy
  - d. verse 5: He predestined US
  - e. verse 6: He freely bestowed on US in the Beloved
  - f. verse 7: In Him WE have redemption ... forgiven OUR trespasses
  - g. verse 8: (His grace) which He lavished on US
  - h. verse 9: He made known to US
  - i. verse 11: WE have obtained (or been made) an inheritance
  - j. all the way through, the words have been applied to all Christians, to every child of God, without distinction
3. but, in verse 12, the 'we', for the first time, is qualified
- a. to those who '[were the first to hope in Christ](#)'; but not just 'in Christ' as is usual elsewhere in Ephesians, but literally, '[in the Christ](#)', that is, '[in the Messiah](#)'
  - b. the context excludes Jews as a nation; they rejected Jesus
  - c. the disciples or church formed at Pentecost is excluded for Paul could not then say we
  - d. but the contrast with the first words of verse 13, '[In Him, you also,](#)' shows this does not include the Gentile Christians
  - e. so, that leaves us with the remnant within the Jews, the Israel truly looking for and trusting in the coming Messiah
  - f. like the heroes of faith listed in Hebrews 11
  - g. to which can be included the many during the earthly lifetime of our Lord: Zacharias, Simeon, Anna, John the Baptist, and yes, even the persecuting Saul of Tarsus
  - h. "[In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.](#)" (Romans 11:5) among the Jews; but, why, then, is their conversion especially to the praise of His glory?
4. It is because such conversion is a demonstration to all the world
- a. and testifies that indeed Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah
    - (A) that despite Satan's opposition through the political and the religious leaders of this world age

- (B) God was able to carry out his predetermined plan
- (C) the proof of God's power is to the praise of His glory
- b. though nationally the Jews rejected Jesus as Messiah
  - (A) God, nevertheless is faithful to His promises
  - (B) the proof of His faithfulness is to the praise of His glory
- c. that those most adamant in refusing the Gospel
  - (A) a people whose opposition to Christianity is furious
  - (B) can be brought by the power of the Spirit of God
  - (C) as was Paul on the road to Damascus, and,
  - (D) can know peace with God to the praise of His glory

E. Conclusion – I have just two things to leave with you before we conclude with the singing of “All Glory to Jesus”

- a. let your life in appreciation of His redemption be lived before your world ‘to the praise of His glory’
- b. let your prayers for those ministering to Jews be that they see many be converted ‘to the praise of His glory’

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NRSV	New Revised Standard Version © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.
PHIL	New Testament Translation © 1972 by J. B. Phillips
RSV	Revised Standard Version © 1946, 1952 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.
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2. 'All Hail, King Jesus' by Dave Moody © 1986 by Glory Alleluia Music
3. Greek-English Lexicon, Liddell & Scott
4. Expositor's Greek Testament, *in loc*
5. *ibid*, reference of Naboth to 1 Kings 21:3

6. E. K. Simpson, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament*, *in loc*
7. *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, *in loc*
8. "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow" by Ira Forrest Stamphill (1914-), © 1950 Singspiration, renewal 1978.