

## Ephesians 1:3-14 - Part 3

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7-1-15

### Future Blessing of Unification (vv. 9-10)

Vv. 9-10a - He has shown us what everything is all about

- History is moving towards a glorious \_\_\_\_\_
- Ch. 3 - the inclusion of Gentiles = a symbol/foretaste

V. 10b - "that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth."

- "summing up" or "unify" - ανακεφαλαιωσασθαι (transliteration = "anakephalaiousasthai")
  - More specifically: summing up all the parts as a comprehensive, organized whole
  - Unity brought about by diversity
  - Not **condensing** or **reducing** (cf. Eph. 1:22; Rom. 13:9)
- Not universalism, but \_\_\_\_\_ renewal (Rom. 8:18ff.; Matt. 19:28; 2 Pet. 3:10-13).
- God's plan is that "all things" which were created through Christ and for Christ, and which hold together in Christ, will finally be united under Christ by being subject to his headship. God's two creations - the universe and his church - will be unified under 1 cosmic Christ, the supreme head of both.

### John Stott on Paul's grand perspective:

"At this point it may be wise to pause a moment and consider how much all of us need to develop Paul's broad perspective. Let me remind you that he was a prisoner in Rome. Not indeed in a cell or dungeon, but still under house arrest and handcuffed to a Roman soldier. Yet, though his wrist was chained and his body was confined, his heart and mind inhabited eternity. He appeared back 'before the foundation of the world' (v. 4) and on to 'the fullness of time' (v. 10), and grasped hold of what 'we have' now (v. 7) and ought to 'be' now (v. 4) in the light of those two eternities.

"As for us, how blinkered is our vision in comparison with his, how small is our mind, how narrow are our horizons! Easily and naturally we slip into a preoccupation with our own petty little affairs. But we need to see time in the light of eternity, and our present privileges and obligations in the light of our past election and future perfection. Then, if we shared the apostle's perspective, we would also share his praise. For doctrine leads to doxology as well as to duty. Life would become worship, and we would bless God constantly for having blessed us so richly in Christ."

### The Scope of These Blessings (vv. 11-14)

Shift in pronouns:

- V. 12 - "we who were the first to hope in Christ" - Jews
- V. 13 - "you also" - Gentile audience
- V. 14 - the Holy Spirit has been given to "us" - both parties \_\_\_\_\_

"in him" (vv. 11, 13) - repetition reminds us that it is by our union with Christ that we are one

### Concerning God's People

We are God's \_\_\_\_\_

- Israel as God's inheritance/heritage (Dt. 32:9; Ps. 33:12; Cf. Dt. 4:20, 9:29; I Kgs. 8:51; Ps. 106:40, 135:4; Jer. 10:16; Zc. 2:12)
- Israel as God's possession (Ex. 19:5; Dt. 7:6; Cf. Dt. 14:2, 26:18; Isa. 43:21; Mal. 3:17)

- Paul is reapplying these ideas to the church, whom Christ has \_\_\_\_\_ for himself with his own blood (Acts 20:28; Tit. 2:14; I Pet. 2:9)
- V. 12 - “obtained an inheritance” vs. “made a heritage”
- The HS = **promise, seal and pledge**
  - “Promise” (v. 13) - by the OT prophets and Jesus himself to all who believe (Ezek. 36:27; Joel 2:28; John 14-16; Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 2:33, 38-39; Gal. 3:14,16)
  - “Seal” (v. 13) - indicates \_\_\_\_\_
    - Not external, but on our \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Deut. 30:6; Rom. 2:28-29)
    - Cf. Acts 8:14-17, 10:44-46, 15:8, 19:6
  - “Pledge” (v. 14) - not a solemn promise, but \_\_\_\_\_
    - An actual \_\_\_\_\_ of what is to come (Cf. II Cor. 1:22, 5:5)

Ephesians 1	Romans 8
V. 13 - Holy Spirit of promise	Vv. 9a - “you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you”
V. 13 - Seal of adoption	V. 9b - “if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not <b>belong to Him</b> ” Vv. 14-17 - “For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have <b>received a spirit of adoption</b> as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’ 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”
V. 14 - Pledge of ultimate renewal	Vv. 18-23 - “18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, <b>having the first fruits of the Spirit</b> , even we ourselves groan within ourselves, <b>waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.</b> ”

We live to the praise of his glory

- Seen this refrain 3 times already
  - Father elects...”to the praise of the glory of his grace” (v. 6)
  - Son redeems...”to the praise of his glory” (v. 12)
  - Spirit seals...”to the praise of his glory” (v. 14)
- His “glory” is his \_\_\_\_\_
  - Worship him by our words and deeds and cause others to see and praise him too.
  - This was God’s purpose for Israel in the OT (cf. Isa. 43:21; Jer. 13:11) and is his purpose for us today