

Ephesians
Alpha & Omega
Ephesians 1:3-14
February 9th, 2025

I. Introduction: Triune Eulogy

Through the course of three *eulogies*, or *praises*, Paul focuses on each Person of the Trinity in turn. The end result is an overwhelming proclamation that God is all in all; that our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is Alpha and Omega. He is the beginning of our salvation, the middle of our salvation, and the end of our salvation. It all originates from Him, it is all secured by Him, and it is all brought to its full consummation by Him.

II. God the Father (vv. 3-6) — Salvation From the Father's Love

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Paul starts where everything starts. In his praise, he begins by going back to the source and origin of all things. He goes back to our God's _____ of us in love. God the Father chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world. He predestined us to be adopted into the Holy Family. This is the fountain of our salvation. God the Father is the Fountain of Every Blessing. The love the Father is the source and origin of all our blessings. Luther in his *Heidelberg Disputation*:

“The love of God does not find, but creates, that which is pleasing to it. The love of man comes into being through that which is pleasing to it. . . . [T]he love of God which lives in man loves sinners, evil persons, fools, and weaklings in order to make them righteous, good, wise, and strong. Rather than seeking its own good, the love of God flows forth and bestows good. Therefore sinners are attractive because they are loved; they are not loved because they are attractive.”

By nature, we love what is lovely. But that's not what God does. God loves what is _____. Our God's love seeks out sinners like us, evil persons, fools, and weaklings—and it transforms us. It makes of us good men, righteous men, lovely women, charitable women. But too often we revert to a *lex talionis* mentality. We retaliate with an equal and opposite response. Slandered we slander. Wronged we wrong. Injured we injure. But, again, God our Father did not treat us in this way. His love found us His enemies, and His love made us into _____.

III. God the Son (vv. 7-10) — Salvation Secured Through the Blood of the Son

7 In Him [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

In order to secure our redemption and adopt us into the Holy Family, _____ had to be made. Blood had to be shed. The curse of Adam rests upon us, and the curse demands

our life. But God in His love wanted us for Himself. And so, the Son of God took on blood, took on flesh and bones, so that He would have blood to shed, so that He could become a new covenant head of a new humanity. The Lord Jesus Christ stepped into history and _____ with His blood the eternal decree of the Father.

Notice likewise the result of this blood-bought redemption. Not only are we brought into the family of God, adopted through Christ, and united to Him, but this redemption is cosmic. It involves a restructuring of all things (v. 10). In Christ, God is gathering together all things in one.

This means that we have to order ourselves to Christ. If God is in Christ reordering all things then this has implications for our lives. God has let us into the mystery hidden for ages. He has told us what He is doing—so that we can come under Christ and contribute our part. We get to be the supporting character to Christ, the hero of this story.

IV. God the Spirit (vv. 11-14) — Salvation Perfected By the Spirit

*11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.***

We are now sealed by the Holy Spirit, and He is our guarantee or the pledge of our inheritance. Jesus bled and died for the sins of the world, and the Holy Spirit testified to this by filling all who believe in Him. What does this mean that the Holy Spirit is the guarantee, the pledge of our inheritance? It means, if He dwells in us, then we _____ to Him (see Rom. 8:16).

How do we know we have the Spirit of God? If you are _____ by the Spirit of God in newness of life, then you can be comforted that you are a son of God, you are a daughter of God (Rom. 8:14). For the Spirit of God dwells in you and He is refurbishing His home. He is perfecting the salvation decreed by the Father and secured by the Son.

Since the Spirit has sealed us for redemption and is even now preparing us for it—do not _____ Him (Eph. 4:30-32). The Spirit, which is simply the translation of the Greek word, *pneuma*, for *breath* or *wind*. Do not go against the Wind of God. Do not fight against Him. Do not try to sail against Him. But be filled with the Wind of God, and go where He pleases.

V. All to the Praise of His Glorious Grace

The grand plan of God is a summing up of all things in Jesus Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth. All things are to be united in Him. In love, God the Father has decreed it. He has spoken the Word. God the Son has secured it, even by shedding His own blood and being raised from the grave, thus defeating sin and putting an end to its corruption and pollution of mankind. And God the Spirit is perfecting this work in us, His people, and in this world. All things are being united in Christ to sing once again the marvelous praises of Him, our Almighty God, the Alpha and the Omega. That is where all of this is heading—and the result is _____. It is all to the praise of the glory of His grace (vv. 6, 12, 14).

VI. Come & Welcome to Jesus Christ