

# THE MAGNIFICENT GATEWAY TO PEACE<sup>1</sup>

Ephesians 1:1-14

Ten giant columns of praise are erected for every believer in these magnificent verses:

Ephesians 1:1	In Christ Jesus, I am a faithful saint.
Ephesians 1:2	In Christ, I have grace and peace.
Ephesians 1:3	In Christ, blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
Ephesians 1:4a	In Christ, I am chosen.
Ephesians 1:4b	In Christ, I am holy and blameless before the Father.
Ephesians 1:5	In Christ, I am holy and blameless before the father.
Ephesians 1:6	In Christ, I am accepted.
Ephesians 1:7	In Christ, I have redemption and forgiveness.
Ephesians 1:11	In Christ, I have obtained an inheritance.
Ephesians 1:13	In Christ, I have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

## Ephesians 1:3-14<sup>2</sup>

[3 Blessed<sup>3</sup> be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed<sup>4</sup> us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places<sup>5</sup> in Christ<sup>6</sup>,] [4 Just as He chose<sup>7</sup> us in Him<sup>8</sup> before<sup>9</sup> the foundation of the world, that we should be holy<sup>10</sup> and blameless<sup>11</sup> before Him.

In love 5 He predestined<sup>12</sup> us to adoption<sup>13</sup> as sons through Jesus Christ to himself, according<sup>14</sup> to the kind intention of His will, 6 <sup>15</sup>To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

7 In Him we<sup>16</sup> have redemption<sup>17</sup> through His blood, the forgiveness<sup>18</sup> of our trespasses, according<sup>19</sup> to the riches

<sup>1</sup> No Christ, no peace; know Christ, know peace

<sup>2</sup> Paul, a childless, landless, homeless man - a man of boundless wealth.

<sup>3</sup> eklego; eulogy, the declaration of goodness. Luke 6:13

<sup>4</sup> it is His nature, our need

<sup>5</sup> in the heavenlies, spiritual sphere

<sup>6</sup> The facts that identifies us. Ten times occurs in vv. 3-14. In Christ, reservoir of blessing, treasure of great price.

<sup>7</sup> eklego, selected for blessing, mystery, paradox

<sup>8</sup> Do you think Calvary caught God by surprise?

<sup>9</sup> He before hor us drew a circle around us. Moral not temporal

<sup>10</sup> position vs. practice

<sup>11</sup> Amomos, a sacrificial word, spotless motive, John 15:13, Eph. 2:4, 5

<sup>12</sup> (proorizo) decide beforehand

<sup>13</sup> chosen to sonship, Rom. 8:5 for display, I Cor. 10:31

<sup>14</sup> Long ago before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own. Through what Christ would do for us.

<sup>15</sup> Throbbing with the majesty and goodness of God.

<sup>16</sup> We, **people** creation goal, possession

<sup>17</sup> Release. Redeemer, "Him", redeemed, "we", redemption price, "blood", redemption results "forgiveness".

**of His grace, 8 Which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight 9 He made known<sup>20</sup> to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which he purposed<sup>21</sup> in Him 10 With a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is the summing up<sup>22</sup> of all things in Christ<sup>23</sup>, things in the heavens and things upon the earth.**

**In Him 11 Also we have obtained an inheritance<sup>24</sup>, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will<sup>25</sup>, 12 To the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory<sup>26</sup>.**

**13 In Him<sup>27</sup>, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation<sup>28</sup> - having also believed,] [you were sealed<sup>29</sup> in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge<sup>30</sup> of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption<sup>31</sup> of God's own possession, to the praise<sup>32</sup> of His glory.]**

1st blessings through God (3)

2nd blessings through the Son (4-13a)

3rd blessings through the Holy Spirit (13b-14)

The Greek text is made up of one very long, run-on sentence. Paul started this sentence in verse 3 with the phrase: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," then

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<sup>18</sup> Aphasis - a sending away. Water from reservoir, horses from the post, prisoners at bar.

<sup>19</sup> X:Y :: 1:2 - X is to Y as 1 is to 2 in proportion.

<sup>20</sup> What? The secret of revelation redemption reason

<sup>21</sup> How? The believer's need is not to receive more, but to do more with what he has.

<sup>22</sup> Why? Jew, Greek, male, female, rich, poor, black, white, labor, management, democrat, republican, Arab, Israeli.

<sup>23</sup> The force that unites us, His will, His purpose, His administration.

<sup>24</sup> God's perspective, the ground of redemption. Certain of happen, common agreement, common life, common inheritance, Romans 15:5-7, Romans 8:17.

<sup>25</sup> The grantor of redemption. Plan, wish.

<sup>26</sup> The goal of redemption.

<sup>27</sup> Look at Jesus where he was. Lift your eyes to see where he is. Measure that distance by the sweep and lift of the Almighty arm.

<sup>28</sup> Four suggestions about possession: Don't let your feelings fool you; don't be discouraged by frequent, repetitious temptation; don't think you must have superhuman power; cut your conversation with the old landlord short.

<sup>29</sup> The guarantee of redemption. Permanent.

<sup>30</sup> Earnest

<sup>31</sup> The Bible's story in a single word.

<sup>32</sup> The focus that keeps, v. 6, v. 12, v. 14.

proceeds to tell us what God has done, without a pause, without a period, without stopping to take a breath, until the end of verse 14. He just can't stop talking, it's too exciting to talk about the riches we have, our infinite wealth as followers of Christ, the recipients of all that God has and gives to ANYONE and EVERYONE who will respond to his love and submit to his will.

### **He Chose us in Him**

"to pick out, select," means, "to choose for oneself," "choosing" with the subsidiary ideas of kindness or favor or love, It is rendered "made choice"<sup>33</sup> He drew a circle around me, eternal not temporal; Chosen to son ship, for display.

### **He Predestined us:**

*Transliteration: proorizo pro-or-id'-zo*  
*v to predetermine, decide beforehand*

During his days as guest lecturer at Calvin Seminary, **R. B. Kuiper** once used the following illustration of God's sovereignty and human responsibility: Here the word is used to point out God's fixed purpose or predetermination to bestow on the Gentiles the blessing of the adoption of sons by Jesus Christ, which adoption had been before granted to the Jewish people; and without circumcision, or any other Mosaic rite, to admit the Gentiles to all the privileges of his Church and people.—Adam Clarke's Commentary

**I liken them to two ropes going through two holes in the ceiling and over a pulley above. If I wish to support myself by them, I must cling to them both. If I cling only to one and not the other, I go down.**

**I read regarding God's election, predestination, his chosen, and so on. I read also the many teachings regarding 'whosoever will may come' and urging people to exercise their responsibility as human beings. These**

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<sup>33</sup>W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's complete expository dictionary of Old and New Testament words [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1996.

**seeming contradictions cannot be reconciled by the puny human mind.**

**With childlike faith, I cling to both ropes, fully confident that in eternity I will see that both strands of truth are, after all, of one piece.** John Morren.

**My God foreknows infallibly all that shall come to pass.**

A god who sees through a glass darkly would seem to be a very small God indeed, one made in the image of man.

### **To Adoption**

“a placing,” “to place,” signifies the place and condition of a son given to one to whom it does not naturally belong, used by the apostle Paul only. Accepted in the beloved, having the right to all the privileges and to the inheritance of children.

This act of love was *before the foundation of the world*; God chose us to be his very own, through what Christ would do for us. We cannot be thus accepted of God, but in and through Jesus Christ. He loves his people for the sake of the beloved.

Adoption is the result of a Father’s Love, a Father’s Choice and a Father’s Sacrifice, “Adoption” should result in.....A Sign of Salvation –the past is gone. Every thing is new– new dad, new mom, new family, new home, new name, and new life– literally, they have been saved!

**An old American Indian legend tells about a brave who found an eagle’s egg and put it into the nest of a turkey. The eaglet hatched with the brood of turkeys and grew up with them.**

**All his life, the eagle, thinking he was a turkey, did what the turkeys do. He scratched in the dirt for seeds and insects to eat. He clucked and gobbled. And never flew more than a few feet off the ground. After all, turkeys don’t fly very much.**

**Time went by and the changeling eagle grew very old. One day, he saw a magnificent bird far above him in the cloudless sky, soaring with graceful majesty on the**

wind currents, **"What a beautiful bird!"** said the changeling eagle to the turkey next to him. **"What is it?"**

**"That's an eagle -- the chief of birds,"** the turkey gobbled. **"But don't give it a second thought. You could never be like him."** So the changeling eagle never gave it another thought. **And he died thinking he was a turkey.**

### **In Him we have Redemption**

"redemption"" indicating both the liberation from the guilt and doom of sin and the introduction into a life of liberty, "newness of life"

Redemption is a commercial term borrowed from the marketplace where human beings were offered for sale to the highest bidder. Condemned to a miserable existence these slaves were powerless to escape. Their only hope was redemption, an uncommon process whereby they were purchased in order to be set free.

Scripture uses the tragedy of slavery to illustrate our human predicament. Without God's intervention, we are all hopelessly enslaved to self and sin. We are forced to live in bondage to sin and Satan. Enslaved by sin and guilt, we are unable to liberate ourselves.

Do you think Calvary caught God by surprise? The guilt and the stain of sin could be no otherwise removed than by the blood of Jesus. **All our spiritual blessings flow down to us in that stream.** This great benefit, which comes freely to us, was dearly bought and paid for by our blessed Lord; and yet it is according to the riches of God's grace.

**There's a true story about a man named Max Walsh he was staying at a lodge in the mountains. One day he went for a hike. While he was hiking, the weather changed and he found himself in a blinding snowstorm. He lost his sense of direction, became exhausted and**

**collapsed. The owner of the lodge sent his favorite dog out to look for Walsh. When he found the unconscious man, the dog grabbed his sleeve and began to pull.**

**Walsh came to his senses, but thought he was being attacked by a wolf, so he slashed at the dog with his hunting knife. Mortally wounded, the dog left the freezing man in the snow and returned to lodge where he died at his master's feet. When the lodge owner saw the knife wounds, he realized what happened and followed the blood trail back and rescued the hiker. Now we all feel sorry for the dog, but that's a picture of what Jesus did for us.**

It cost a lot to redeem me.  
My sin is serious to God,  
silver and gold wasn't enough to pay,  
somebody had to get the death penalty.

The miracle of Redemption is that God turns to me, the unholy one, changes me into the standard of Himself, the Holy One, by putting into me a new life, the life of Jesus Christ.

**The Forgiveness of trespasses** - "a dismissal, release" it is used of the remission of sins,

Never allow the thought that Jesus Christ stands with us against God out of pity and compassion; that He became a curse for us out of sympathy with us. **The great miracle of the grace of God is that he forgives sin.** It is the death of Jesus Christ alone that enables the Divine Nature to forgive. Calvary and nothing less. the tremendous tragedy of the Cross of Christ. - the ground of the Cross of my Lord.

The only way we can be forgiven is by being brought back to God by the Atonement. There we are held as a vice, constrained by the love of God. Forgiveness means that I am forgiven into a re-created relationship, into identification with God in Christ.

## Obtained an Inheritance

“(a) birthright, that into the possession of which one enters in virtue of sonship, not because of a price paid or of a task accomplished, Gal. 4:30; Heb. 1:4; 12:17: You receive the inheritance because of your relationship with a person. Everything is mine! Christ belongs to me. Even death may belong to me. He predestinated us to receive an inheritance.

It is a reward out of His grace and not out of my merit. God has purposed it. He rewards us with an inheritance. *All mine* because God has given it to me. Christ is mine.

**You were Sealed** “a seal” or “signet,” Rev. 7:2, “the seal of the living God,” an emblem of ownership and security, We are said to be *sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise*, v. 13. The blessed Spirit is holy himself, and he makes us holy. Separated and set apart for God, distinguished, marked belonging to him.

You are sealed the moment that you trust Christ. The Spirit Himself is that seal. He implants the image of God upon the heart. The sealing denotes rightful ownership. First, tells what it is. Second, it tells who it belongs to. And third, lets me know of the importance of the content.

**Holy Spirit who is given as a Pledge**, Earnest, Part of payment, secures the full sum: so is the gift of the Holy Ghost; all his influences and operations, both as a sanctifier and a comforter, are heaven begun, glory in the seed and bud.

The Holy Spirit is given to believers as an *arrabon*, a down payment, a guarantee of heaven. We will enjoy when as the bride of Christ we are eternally united with our Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus. Someday we will live in the very presence of God. With joyful anticipation we await that day—for our future is guaranteed!

**In Modern Greek the word *arrabon* means “an engagement ring.” In the New Testament that’s the term for ‘a guarantee, a down payment.’**

1. God has **chosen me**, a joint heir with His Son in His kingdom.
2. **God has known me from eternity past.**

- 3. God adopted me as the result of His Love, His Choice and His Sacrifice,**
- 4. God forgave me and re-created my broken relationship totally identifying with me in Christ.**
- 5. God grants my inheritance as a son...all mine because God has given it to me.**
- 6. God seals His image in my heart with the Holy Spirit.**
- 7. God's Spirit in me is a down payment on my full inheritance.**

The great end and design of God in bestowing all these spiritual privileges, that we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ—

Do not reject the one who offers you Grace and Peace.

**It was almost 1:00 in the morning when the phone rang. Dr. Leo Winters, the highly acclaimed Chicago surgeon, was abruptly awakened. There had been an accident and his skill hands were needed for immediate surgery. The quickest route happened to be through a rather tough area, but with time being a critical factor, it was worth the risk.**

**At one of the stoplights his door was yanked open by a man with a gray hat and a dirty flannel shirt. "I got to have your car!" the man screamed, pulling him from his seat. Winters tried to explain the gravity of the situation but the man would not listen. When the doctor was finally able to get a taxi to the hospital over an hour had elapsed and it was too late as the patient had passed away 30 minutes earlier.**

**The nurse told him that the father of the victim had gone to the chapel wondering why the doctor never came. Dr. Winters walked hurriedly to get to the chapel and when he entered he saw the father... he was wearing a gray hat and dirty flannel shirt. (J. Utley)**

Tragically, he had pushed from his life the one who could save his son.