

Episode #2-37 – Ephesians 1 Part 3 - The Longest Sentence in the Bible

I. The purpose of Paul's epistle to the Ephesians is to tell us what God's present purpose is in all His work today. This includes His work in the world and in the individual believer. Ephesians is the book of God's present purpose, the book of being "in Christ," and the book of God's grace.

II. The longest sentence in the Bible is found in Ephesians 1:3-14. From verse 3, we learned that the subject is "God," the verb is "blesses," and the direct object is "us," those who are "in Christ." God does not fish for nice things to say about us. He makes these things true of us, and then He speaks well of us about them. Therefore, this sentence is a long statement of all the glorious things God makes true of us in Christ. In verse 4, we learned the first thing that He says of us: we are chosen in Christ to be holy and flawless in His sight.

III. Ephesians 1:5. Designated Beforehand To Be a Son.

A. Verse 5. We are predestinated to the adoption of sons.

1. Many make a big deal of "predestination" under the idea that God chooses who will be saved and who will not.

a. Predestination just means that we are designated beforehand.

b. Here we are predestined to future blessing, not to initial salvation.

2. Greek is adoption of sons, not of children.

a. A son was the heir to the family business who would take over when the father could no longer run it.

b. The son (usually the oldest boy) would be trained all his childhood in how to run the family. When he was considered old enough to do the job, the father would adopt him as the son. From then on, he had all the authority of the father. He was able to represent the Father in all ways. That is what this is talking about.

c. The adoption of sons has to do with a position we will hold. This is true of both men and women who are believers. We will be sons through Jesus Christ to God. That means we will have authority from God, and will represent Him to others. Glorious, and almost unbelievable if He had not said it!

3. This is according to His good pleasure, not our deserving it!

IV. Ephesians 1:6. The purpose is that we will extol the glories of His grace!

A. When will this be? See Ephesians 2:7, 3:10. The kingdom of God will be a time of justice and fairness. God's grace might well be lost sight of. Yet we will be there as living object lessons of His grace.

B. Accepted = *charitoo*, same as Luke 1:28. We are highly favored, greatly graced!

C. He has given us this grace in the Beloved One, Christ.

V. Conclusion: In this, the longest sentence in the Bible, we learn all the glorious things God says are true of us in Christ. In verse 5, we learn that we are designated beforehand for the place of a Son for God, that is, we will be privileged to represent God in the future. In verse 6, we learn that our task will be extolling the glorious of His grace. How great His grace is toward us! We indeed have every reason to be thankful.