

CHOSEN FOR GOD'S GLORY

Ephesians 1:1-6

The situation is parallel to that of Philippians and Colossians which were probably carried by the same person.

Paul had been arrested in Jerusalem because of the complaint of the Jews against him. [3:1, 13; 4:1; 6:20]

In the delay over the proceedings and the t

They were out to get him because he was preaching that God had turned from them to the Gentiles.

Threats to his life, Paul appealed to Caesar and was sent to Rome.

He waited there for two years for the arrival of his accusers.

They apparently never arrived and Paul was released.

While waiting in Rome, Paul wrote some of the churches where he had ministered.

He had invested considerable time in Ephesus.

Some churches of that region were daughter churches of Ephesus. Paul had never visited those personally.

Paul has received word of divisions within the churches.

The underlying problem is similar to those found in other churches.

The divisions revolve around conflicts between Jews and Gentiles.

Paul writes concerning God's program for this age, to correct the problem.

If God has eliminated the basis for distinctions within the church, they ought to live in a way that reflects what God has done.

The doctrinal portion of the book is a hymn of praise because those who were separated have been made members of God's family.

∴, **We ought to act like members of a family and live in a way that is worthy of the family!**

IF GOD HAS ACCEPTED ALL OF US WITHOUT DISTINCTION, WE OUGHT TO ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER.

PAUL'S TWO PURPOSES

There's something he wants us **TO KNOW**

There's something he wants us **TO DO**

What does God want us to know?

He wanted to "pull a John Smyser" on them! "GREAT JOB!" "I LOVE IT!"

He wants us **TO KNOW what a great job He has done in us!**

What does God want us to do? 4:1

"Live a life worthy of the calling you have received!"

--He wants us **to live like it**

It's difficult to determine which purpose is primary in Paul's thought.

Both ideas are emphasized

Commentators differ on which is predominant.

Paul begins with considering what God wants us **TO KNOW—WHAT A GREAT JOB GOD DID IN OUR LIVES**

Greeting 1:1-2 *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Author-recipient-greeting

Author: Paul identifies himself as an apostle—a "sent one" — sent by God — He is *God's representative to us.*

The importance of God's plan (His will)

He didn't decide for himself to do this — God sent Him.

Recipient: Saints-believers (*"faithful"*)

As "saints," we have been *set apart* as God's people

"Faithful" indicates that they are "*believers*" — they have placed their trust in Jesus Christ.

He assumes that God is at work, calling out a new people who trust Him, and that THEY are part of that new people.

Their new relationship IN CHRIST

Greeting: (pretty traditional greeting)

He (and others) has Christianized the traditional "greeting"

Ill.—Latin American greeting format—you'd never just "get to the point!"

Paul uses a general greeting, especially appropriate for God's people.

Jewish thought: *Shalom* — wishes them peace

Christian thought lays the foundation: *grace*

He wishes them the ultimate Jewish-Christian desire, the fulfillment of both: a practical experiencing of God's grace and peace.

The only source of true grace and peace is God, through our Lord Jesus Christ

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE 1:3-3:20

After the initial greeting, Paul expresses his prayer for the church.

Doctrinal portion *begins* and *ends* in prayer — essentially *the same* prayer.

What comes in the middle explains the theological basis underlying his prayer for them.

Lengthy **prayer of praise presents a summary of God's plan for His people in this present age.**

He uses a prayer of thanksgiving format to teach the doctrine of the church.

PAUL'S PRAISE FOR GOD'S PLAN 1:3-14

Praise is presented to God for His marvelous plan through which He has made it possible for us to receive every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ultimate purpose of His plan: that God might receive glory and praise for what He has done.

Repetition of key phrase: "to the praise of His glory"

His praise summarizes the role of each Person of the Godhead in providing every spiritual blessing for us—**each concludes with praise**

The work of the Father 1:3-6 1:6 *"to the praise of His glorious grace"*

His work through the Son 1:7-12 1:12 *"... that we ...might be for the praise of His glory"*

His work through the Spirit 1:13-14 1:14 *"... —to the praise of His glory"*

THE WORK OF GOD THE FATHER 1:3-6

He praises the Father because of His plan in general, and specifically, because He chose us before the foundation of the world.

In general: Paul praises God because of His plan 1:3 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

Through this plan, GOD HAS GIVEN US EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING—we lack *nothing!*

The important and central role our salvation plays:

So much confusion about our salvation.

People seem to think we have to add something to it!

Eph. 1 helps us understand salvation from God's perspective.

GOD HAS DONE IT ALL—Nothing is missing

God has given us *every* spiritual blessing in Christ!

When we are "in Christ" we have *everything* we need

2 Pet 1:3 *"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness ..."*

Specifically: Paul praises God because He chose us 1:4-6 *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*

**GOD CHOSE US – before the foundation of the world
– before we ever did a thing**

God takes the initiative—HE chose US!

We must never allow our experience of choosing Christ to water down the truth our Lord revealed: we would never have chosen Him, if He had not first chosen us (John 6:44)

Purpose for God's choice: that we should be holy and blameless before Him. 1:4 *"... he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."*

Understanding that God has chosen us *doesn't* give us freedom to live as we please—it should motivate us to live for Him!

Result of God's choice: we have been adopted as God's children.

1:5a *In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ,*
Our experience with Jonathan

My parents chose me; Your parents were stuck with what they got!

Basis of God's choice: the kind intention of His will 1:5b *In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, **in accordance with his pleasure and will—***

He did what He wanted to do, because He loved us!

It was NOT based on our works!

and not based on what He knew we were going to do anyway!

Ultimate purpose of His choice: His glory! 1:6b *to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.*

This is all God's work— He gets all the glory.

We can't add anything to it! (Nothing!!)

His point here is simple: When we really understand what God has done for us, *it will drive us to WORSHIP!*

Worship is simply giving to God the glory He deserves!

One of our deepest human desires is the desire to be accepted, valued and wanted.

Young people, in their search for acceptance have been known to do most anything on a dare—in order to be accepted!

Adults are *driven* to succeed, because they believe their worth is based on their *success* in life.

They want to be respected by others, accepted.

People get into unhealthy relationships—for wrong reasons— because we think we'll be loved and accepted.

Good news! None of this futile struggle is necessary.

We have been chosen by God before time began.

We have been loved by Him unconditionally.

We belong. We matter. We are accepted.

We're no longer outcasts—we're part of God's family!

THAT SHOULD DRIVE US TO WORSHIP

—TO PRAISE HIM FOR WHAT HE'S DONE FOR US!

—for choosing US!

=> "To God Be the Glory"