Same God: **Ephesians – wk 2 – You Are Here, Still**

**Six Flags map - you are here. It puts it all in perspective. When you know where you’re standing, you have the confidence to move forward. Old map.**

**Ephesians is a “You are here” in Christ and a where to go sign.**

**Chap 1-3 Our position in Christ - God’s plan to us**

**Chap 4-6 Our practice in Christ – God's plan for us**

**MAP/pics \*\* - Story Behind The Book:**

* **Written by Apostle Paul while in prison in Rome.**
* **To church loved and started - lived there 3 yrs.**
* **Major port city – busy and advanced. The 4th largest city in Rome.**
* **Acts 19-20 – shares the exciting story about Paul in Ephesus…**
* **You see this in Acts 19-20 – the Ephesians' growth.**

**Four stages of Ephesus faith**

* + **Santa God – The big gift giver. (Ac 19:1-7)**
  + **Magic Genie God – They want his power (Ac 19:8-16)**
  + **Cosmic Consultant God – They want advice not real change (17-41)**
  + **Lord God – surrender of life to his control and follow (20:13-38)**

**Some of you might be at one of these places.**

**Paul loved this church – We are looking over his shoulder.**

**It challenges us to know who we are in Christ and move from there**

**As I said last week, Eph 1:3-14 is one long praise opera – that sets the tone. A 202-word praise for The Trinity.**

* **Eph 1:3-5 = where we stand - with the Father**
* **Eph 1:6-12 = where we stand – with Jesus the Son**
* **Eph 13-14 = where we stand – with the Holy Spirit**

**Eph 1:3-6 = where we stand - with the Father to his Glory!**

**Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, (The sufficiency of Christ) 4 even as he (the Father) chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. (We are chosen – we are not a mistake!!) In love 5 he (the Father) predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his (the Fathers) will, (Those in Christ have been chosen by the Father’s will for adoption - we have family!) 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he (the Father) has blessed us in the Beloved. (The beloved here is Jesus)**

**Last week: By the Father’s will, you are chosen, adopted, and welcomed into the family of God - through Christ.**

**Eph 1:7-12 = Where we stand with Jesus the Son**

**7 In him (Jesus Christ – the Beloved) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he (the Father) lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he (the Father) set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.** **11 In him (Jesus) we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him (the Father) who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.**

**Where we stand in Jesus the Son – You are here!**

1. **You are forgiven! (v.7-8)**

**Three of the greatest words you’ll ever hear in your life.**

**Two words to point out**

* **Redemption – This is - What God did.**

**Eph 1:7 In him (Jesus Christ) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses...**

**There is no other possible redemption outside of Jesus' Blood.**

**“Redemption” is a purchase. A price paid for freedom.**

**The Greek word means “to liberate by paying a ransom.” Usually, in the context of a slave set free.**

**Not by His moral example, but his death. That was the price. The cross!**

**He bought us with his blood, paying a ransom to free us from sin.**

**His death, displayed by his shed blood, was a total payment.**

**Why would he do this? Why the pain – why suffer? Next word.**

* **Grace – This is - Why God did it.**

**"...according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he (the Father) lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight...”**

**Not because of what we did, deserved, or earned - but grace.**

**Grace is unmerited favor. It means we are chosen to receive what we don’t deserve, without merit or worth. Undeserved.**

**Without God’s rich, expensive grace, there is no redemption.**

**“Lavished upon us” - romantic word. Lit. means over, above, & beyond.**

**Because of that expensive lavish grace, I am forgiven, my debts of sin are paid, I’m free and released from judgment.**

**“in all wisdom and insight...” – Many would think God was unwise or**

**foolish to save guilty sinners who keep sinning. But it was done in his perfect wisdom and knowledge.**

**Now, because I am loved – I can love. Because I am accepted, I can accept others. Because I am forgiven, I can forgive.**

**You are here - Ephesians 1:7 ...according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he (the Father) lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he (the Father) set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.**

1. **You are enlightened! Your spiritual eyes are open!**

**We are born with physical senses (see, touch, hear, smell, feel). Now, Re-born again with spiritual senses (spiritual eyes & ears).**

**What is “the mystery of his will?”- the plan of salvation revealed in Jesus.**

**John 14:17 …the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you (Christ's disciples) do know Him, for He abides with you and will be in you. (Matt 13:11-12, 25:19)**

**Where do you stand, Disciple? You, in Christ, through the HS, have insight into God’s word & will. You have understanding.**

**1 Cor 1:18 - The message of the cross is foolishness (stumbling block, blind) to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

**But now, in Christ - you see! “Once blind but now I see!”**

**I see God’s plan, purpose, and penalties, and His provision!**

**1 Corinthians 2:14 - The natural man does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God. For they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

**Bible verses you read before now come alive. Why? Because your eyes were opened, you can now understand! We now know God’s will in His Word; no need to wonder or wander.**

**What of this? 10 “as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.” Does that imply universalism?**

**“Unite” is a Greek word that means “to sum up or head up.”**

**Simply meaning - This is the great resolution.**

**Christ will sum up and resolve all matters in heaven and earth. All things will be resolved, and Christ will be head over all.**

**Phil 2:10-11 - A day will come when every knee bow and tongue confess…**

**Believer, you see him now - chosen, adopted, forgiven, and enlightened**

**You are here! – Ephesians 1:11 In him (Jesus) we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him (the Father) who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. (2x time)**

**Predestination (last wk) *Gk. Proorizo=* to predetermine beforehand, to ordain, to decide ahead of time. The point is (PRE = before).**

**What did God predestinate? v. 5 “he predestined us for adoption to himself” \*\* Check out last week for more.**

**I want to highlight - v.11 In him we have obtained an inheritance…**

1. **You are heirs! (you are here)**

**We have been adopted – therefore, we have an inheritance.**

**Inheritance, what does that mean? It means we have a new citizenship – in Heaven. We are just passing thru – something greater is coming.**

**Thru sin we experience death and suffering- we are poor in sin**

**But thru, Jesus, we are made alive, free- we rich in Christ**

**Romans 8:17 Now if we are children, (of God) then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.**

**Hardships in living for Christ point to our inheritance.**

**You may feel poor in this life, but in Christ, you have an inheritance that is greater than anything this world offers.**

**Are you sick, are you hurting, are you depressed, anxious, lonely, or in need? Are you persecuted? The sufferings of this life… bring it! This world has nothing on my future inheritance. This is our great hope…**

**\* THIS – WORLD – NOT – OUR – HOME**

**For the believer - this is as close to hell you’ll ever get**

**For the unbeliever - this is as close to heaven as you will get.**

* + **Jesus gave his life for us, AND to us.**

**The inheritance is a relationship and position. His death was not just forgiveness, but it prepared me (this vessel) to be a place for His Spirit to live and inhabit. Christ in me!**

* **Eph 1:3-5 = where we stand - with the Father**
* **Eph 1:6-12 = where we stand – with Jesus the Son**
* **Eph 13-14 = where we stand – with the Holy Spirit**

**Eph 1:13 In him (the Father) you also, when you heard (trusted and believed) the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, (salvation) were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (3X – one for each)**

**Notice “when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation…” The gospel is a message, not an action. The gospel is news - not a sentiment, justice work, or good deeds.**

**The gospel truth is something that must be told, heard and believed (Romans 10) then, as a byproduct of the HS - lived out.**

**Where we stand with the Holy Spirit – You are here!**

1. **You are empowered!**

**The HS is a gift sent from Jesus. He is the very presence and person of God living inside of God’s people. This is not symbolic – it is literal.**

**The HS is not a who or a what. The HS is HOLY and fully GOD.**

**(Rom 8:11, 8:26, John 6:63, 1 John 5:6, 1 Cor 2:12, 2 Tim. 1:14, John 14, Acts 5:3-4, Heb 9:14, 1 Cor 2:10)**

**Eph 1 tells us that -**

* **The HS is given at our salvation through Christ, when we believe.**

**(John 3:5-6, John 14:16, 1 Cor 12:13, Galatians 4:6, 1 John 4:4)**

**Romans 8:9 You, (believers in Jesus), are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. (The Spirit lives inside of those who belong to God - v10 Spirit in us brings life & righteousness.)**

**11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. / Romans 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received (at salvation) does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. (The Spirit in you – affirms and confirms you are a Child of God)**

* **The HS – empowers us!**

**The HS – leads us to Christ and works in us our salvation.**

**The HS – brings us boldness and courage to stand for Christ!**

**The HS – brings wisdom, counsel, and guidance in life.**

**The HS – gives discernment and understanding.**

**The HS – teaches us and reminds us what God says in his Word.**

**The HS – brings comfort and hope in crises and chaos.**

**The HS – convicts and matures us in our walk with God.**

**The HS – brings stability emotionally and relationally.**

**The HS – leads in our prayers and spiritual warfare.**

**The HS – empowers us with spiritual gifts and abilities for God’s glory (3X)**

**You don't have to walk in worry and weakness. You don’t have to live in fear and confusion – or walk in hopelessness and nervousness. You don’t have to stay in a rut and run down.**

**Thru Christ – in the HS – you are chosen and empowered!**

**Last one – Ephesians 1:13b (when you) believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, (mark and seal of God’s ownership. Promised by Jesus to his disciples in John 14) 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance (kingdom of heaven) until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (All those gifts from the HS are just a snapshot of our future inheritance - 1 Cor 13:12 We see in part, but one day face-to-face. We still have trouble today, but one day…)**

**You are here by the HS**

1. **You are sealed! Your salvation is sealed by the HS!**

**You are marked/secure! The HS is a down payment of what is to come.**

**If asked if I own my house, I say yes. You might ask, “Did you pay the whole thing?” Oh no, the bank owns my house, but I made a deposit, pay a mortgage, and a legal document says one day I will.**

**The HS is God’s down payment in me. Pouring into my life, investing in me, that one day, the pain of this world will be gone, and He will have me with Him in his presence – the inheritance.**

**By the Father's will, through Jesus' cross, sealed by the HS, you’re forever included in that number of the redeemed (Heb 10:10,14,15).**

**Signed, sealed, and delivered. Now included in the Lamb’s book of life.**

* **The deposit of the HS means - God will not give up on His kids!**

**God will not quit on you – walk out on you – forsake you – abandon you – or neglect you. God is faithful, constant, and secure.**

**Paul said - Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:8)**

**If you are truly a son or daughter of God, you can be confident that Jesus will never let you go.**

**By faith we are saved from sin, selfishness, a self-destructive nature, and from a very real place, ignored, mocked, and made fun of – Hell.**

**In Christ, I am counted and included with that number of millions alive today and billions in centuries before, who are the redeemed. Thank you, Jesus! You saved from my own pit of despair!**

**Why would he do this? For what reason? Why, when we are so ungrateful and rebellious? Some might say because He loves us.**

**Well… Why does he love us? Not because we are lovely or worthy.**

**Why extravagantly and lavishly love a wicked heart? It’s for this…**

**4X - 1,5,9,11 (this is done) …according to and by his will…,**

**3X – 5,9,11 … according to purpose and plan…**

**3X - 6,12,14 …to the praise of his glorious grace…**

**The reasons for His choosing reside in Him, not in us.**

**He calls us his own - for His will, His glory, His praise, His pleasure, His plan, purpose, and prerogative.**

**\*\* Soli Deo Gloria - To God alone be glory \*\***

**Right up front, Paul gave a praise opera on where we stand for the glory of God. He places a sticker on the map – and says – you are here!**

**BUT Reality is - apart from Christ, you are not these things…**

**All that we have is done according to - His purpose – and his will**

**1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God…**

**5 In love he predestined us for adoption… according to the purpose of his will, according to his purpose…**

**9 ….making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose,**

**11 According to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will…**