

THE PURPOSE



PRECEPT

EPHESIANS 1:3-10

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. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

PROMISE

The moment we say yes to Christ, we become a new creation and are given a new life. We become a child of God not because of our moral achievements, but only by the grace of God. We are bought with a price, delivered and free from all our sins, and cleansed and washed by the blood of Christ. God adopts us into His family and makes us co-heir with Christ, children of the King of the universe. What life-changing truth these are! May we always be reminded of these facts so we will not live a defeated Christian life. Believe of what we became in Jesus and who we are in Him. His blessings for us are endless; may we experience the beauty of being part of His family.

In Ephesians 1:3, Paul talks about how God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. We now have benefits that are spiritual in nature; security of eternal place in heaven because of what Jesus has done, the victory that we have in Jesus over the spiritual forces of evil, and the spiritual power that we have over sin and demonic forces. Verse 4 talks about the eternal blessing of God, how He chose us to be holy and blameless. Those who committed their lives to Him have been selected in Christ prior to the work of creation, before the foundations of the world were laid. He determined that all who believed in His Son should be saved. Though He chose us, God cannot make a decision on our behalf. Verse 5 tells us how God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. In our context, adoption is when parents bring a child (often times an infant) into their home and raise them as their own child. During Paul's time, adoption had much more to do with securing a family's inheritance. Adult men were adopted into a family, ending their connection with their biological family and coming under the lineage of another family that sought an heir to manage their wealth. It was rare for anyone to adopt an infant because the family would have no guarantee that the child would grow up to be the kind of responsible, capable man they needed to fulfil these roles. Under Roman law, an adopted son enjoyed the same status and privileges as a real son. Christ is God's Son "by nature"; believers are so by adoption and grace. We are co-heirs with Jesus and we enjoy the same benefits as the real son (Roman 8:17). The basis of this gracious action is in the character of God Himself—His "pleasure" and "will". God adopted us to be part of His family not because we did something special or we did something worthy to be adopted. It is all by His grace; we do not deserve it. Verse 7 assures us that God redeemed and forgave us all by His grace. We are ransomed by the blood of Christ; it was the payment to redeem us from the bondage of sin. The Son of God became man and died on the cross so we can enter His presence forever. Praises be to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

PRACTICE

1. Blessings from God. Since you became a Christian, what blessings have you seen in your life and in the church?

2. Our Adoption. How was your life changed since you've been adopted into the family of Christ? How did you respond/will you respond to this?

PRAYER

I. Community

- Pray that God may open our hearts and eyes to see our communities as God would have us to see them.

II. Families

- Pray that families will always love each other fervently and forgive a multitude of misgivings.

III. Volunteers

- Thank God for all our ministry workers; for their passion & dedication to serve others for God's Kingdom.

IV. Ministries

- Pray that all of our ministries may seek the will & guidance of God as they serve the brethren of our church.

V. Life Kids

- Pray that God may inspire more people to step forward and teach the next generation.

VI. Life Link

- May this ministry always reflect the way Jesus welcomed all who came into His presence.

VII. Life Worship

- Pray that they may usher people to God as they lead in our services.