

Episode #1006 Ephesians 1 Part 5-Heading Up All in Christ

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 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 verses 7-9, we learned that we have redemption through His blood and forgiveness of sins, which He lavishes on us wisely. He is making known to us the secret of His intention in doing all this.

III. Ephesians 1:10. His intention: to head up all these in Christ.

A. There is a coming administration (dispensation) of God! It is an administration when times are ripe for it. This will be whenever God decides to bring in His kingdom.

B. The result will be that all these sons of God will be headed up (*kephale*) in Christ.

1. They would add their math problems up the column instead of down, and put the sum at the top, which they would call the "head."

2. The head is both the sum of all below it and the source of all the addends.

3. Like this, all these sons will be summed up in Christ.

C. This has to do with those holding son positions. This includes those among the heavens and those on the earth.

IV. Ephesians 1:11. Our lot is cast in Him.

A. We will have our place then. The Greek reads not inheritance, but lot. Our lot is cast in Him.

B. As in verse 5, predestination has to do with future blessing, not salvation. It simply means we are now designated beforehand to this son place.

C. This is according to the purpose of Him who is executing all this according to the counsel of His will. What He wants done will be done when we take our place as His representatives.

V. Ephesians 1:12. We will be for the extolling of His glory.

A. Glory has to do with esteem. We will extol the esteem all should hold God in.

B. This does not mean we "first" trusted in Christ. We hoped in advance in Christ.

C. Remember, "hope" means "expectation." Our expectation is in Him!

VI. 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 10, we learn His intention in all He is doing for us: that in an administration when times are ripe for it He will sum up all the sons of God in Christ, whether those in the heavens or those on earth. In verse 11, we learn that our lot is cast in Him, and He is executing this according to the counsel of His will. In verse 12, we learn His end is that we who have hoped in advance in Christ should be for the extolling of His glory. May we even now find our sum and our all in our Lord Jesus Christ!