**Praise Is Due**

Eph. 1:3-14

Introduction:

1. Praise is due God.

2. In Eph. 1:3-14 Paul in recognition of this breaks out, almost in song (Some have suggested that it is a song.), as he praises God for what He has done in Jesus Christ.

3. Read with me beginning in verse 3.

Discussion:

I. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing (3-12).

 A. He chose us (v. 4). This choosing refers specifically to the choosing of Israel as God’s

 special people (Deut. 7:6)—a people for His own possession (cf. Eph. 1:14). Cf. Deut.

 4:37.

 1. Abraham and his descendants were chosen (Gen. 12:1-3).

 2. The choosing narrowed to the descendants of Jacob (Mal. 1:2-3; Rom. 9:6-13).

 3. They were not chosen because they were more numerous than other nations (Deut.

 7:7-8).

 4. They were not chosen because of their righteousness (Deut. 9:4-5).

 5. They were chosen because the Lord loved them and made a promise to their

 forefathers (Deut. 7:7-8). God chose them as “a people for His own possession”

 (Eph. 1:14).

 B. He predestined us to adoption as sons (v. 5).

 1. God’s plan was to include Israel in His special family.

 2. “You will be sons and daughters to me” (2 Cor. 6:18; Isa 43:6).

 3. To be “predestined” means that it was God’s plan to include those He had chosen in

 His family. He would be father and they would be His children.

 4. As we have studied previously, it was part of God’s (marriage) covenant (Ex. 29:45).

 C. He has redeemed us (v. 7).

 1. God redeemed Israel from Egypt (Ex. 6:2-9; Deut. 24:18). The exodus from Egypt is

 the image of release from sin and the “curse of the law.”

 2. Gal. 3:13 refers to being redeemed from the curse of the law.

 3. Titus 2:14 refers to our being redeemed from all iniquity.

 4. Yet in this life we continue to suffer (Eph. 3:13) looking for the final result of the

 redemption that is already begun.

 a. The “new man” marks the beginning of redemption (4:22ff).

 b. Looking forward toward completion (Rom. 8:18-25).

 D. We have obtained an inheritance (NASB; margin “were made a heritage,” v. 11).

 1. Often we like to think of our inheritance as heaven. Cf. a child receiving an

 inheritance from his/her parents.

 2. This text may have reference to that or it may have reference to our actually being

 God’s inheritance. Cf. “His own possession.”

 3. The ESV translates v. 14 “who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire

 possession of it” but then puts in the margin “or until God redeems his possession.”

 4. I think the idea of God redeeming His possession is what Paul is trying to

 communicate and it includes benefits to us as the possession of God. It is not so

 much the idea of heaven, but of our experiencing the benefits of God having

 released us from sin. Cf. Rom. 8:18-25. But this is combined with the idea of our

 being God’s inheritance (Eph. 1:18). We are God’s special people and because of

 this we receive His special blessings associated with redemption. Cf. Ezek. 16:8-14.

II. Gentiles too are blessed with every spiritual blessing (13-14).

 A. “You also” identifies the Gentiles in contrast to the Jews.

 1. Note “us” in verse 3 identifies Jews, Paul including himself among them. They were

 “the first to hope in Christ” (1:12).

 2. This contrast is maintained throughout Ephesians.

 a. Both were dead in sins and children of wrath (2:1-3).

 b. Christ is the solution (2:4-10).

 c. Gentiles were separate, excluded, strangers, no hope and without God, but now

 brought near (2:11-16).

 B. What the Gentiles had done (1:13).

 1. Listened to the message of truth.

 2. Believed it.

 C. What they had received (1:13-14).

 1. Holy Spirit was given as a pledge or down payment.

 2. With a view to their final redemption.

III. All these spiritual blessings are made available “in”/through Christ.

 A. God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing IN CHRIST (3).

 B. He chose us IN HIM (4).

 C. He predestined us to adoption THROUGH JESUS CHRIST (5).

 D. He bestowed His grace on us IN THE BELOVED (6).

 E. He purposed all this IN HIM (9).

 F. He summed up all things IN CHRIST (10).

 G. The Gentiles are sealed IN HIM (13).

Conclusion:

1. So why is praise due to God?

2. He has chosen us. He has predestined us to adoption. He has redeemed us. We are His special possession. He has given His Holy Spirit as a down payment on our final redemption.

3. His work reflects His glorious nature and is worthy of great praise! (1:14).