

## God

**Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,**

Verse 3 begins the longest sentence in the Bible and perhaps in all literature. This is the longest sentence of connected discourse. We have one sentence that goes from verse 3 all the way through verse 14. The grammatical issue here is that this is the longest sentence in connected discourse. Now in our English translation they place a period at the end of verses 6, 12, 14 and in the middle of verses 8 and 10. There are no periods in the Greek. Paul through the ministry of the Holy Spirit describes the activity of the Trinity in the Divine Plan of God.

Let's see if we can outline this one sentence.

First let's recognize this sentence as the working of the members of the Trinity in God's purpose. In verses 3-14 God proclaims or sets forth His Divine purpose for all history. We get this from verse 11.

**Ephesians 1:11 ...according to His purpose who works all things after the council of His will.**

His purpose – this is the Greek *prothesis*, a setting forth, a presentation of His Will, *thelema*.

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In verses 3-6 we have the function of God the Father.

In verses 7-12 we have the function of His Son, Jesus Christ.

In verses 13-14 we have the function of the Holy Spirit.

The only part we play is by our volitional decisions. We choose to submit to the declared purpose of God or rebel against it.

Let's now read the longest sentence on the proclamation of the Plan of God giving us the function of each member of the Godhead.

*Function of God the Father*

**Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,**

**Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love**

**Ephesians 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,**

**Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**

*Function of God the Son, Jesus Christ*

**Ephesians 1:7 In Him (Jesus Christ) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace**

**Ephesians 1:8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight**

**Ephesians 1:9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him**

**Ephesians 1:10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him**

**Ephesians 1:11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,**

**Ephesians 1:12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.**

*Function of God the Holy Spirit*

**Ephesians 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with **the Holy Spirit of promise,****

**Ephesians 1:14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.**

And there, my dear people, is the Grace Plan of God in one sentence. It is therefore not surprising that Satan through Bible scholars has attempted to distort it with such lies as Calvinism. But we will straighten all that out.

First the work of God the Father. Notice three things:

1. He has blessed us;
2. He chose us.
3. He predestined us.

Sounds pretty Calvinistic doesn't it? Well, let's now study the Word of God.

Please, people, get your Biblical thinking, your theological thinking in order. Jesus Christ is important to us because of our thinking about God. Who you are in Christ is vital to our understanding of who we are, only

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because of our thinking about God! That God sent His only Son into the world to provide salvation for everyone who will believe in Him is the only reason Jesus is so important to us.

We must start with an attitude about God!

Your understanding about God is so important in correctly understanding concepts like predestination which is coming up. If you do not understand God you are more than likely to buy into Calvinism.

Your thinking about God determines your thinking about the Bible. If you have a weak view of God, you will have a weaker view of the Bible.

Your thinking about God determines your thinking about Israel and the Jews. If you have a weak view about God, you will have a weak to hostile view about the Jews.

Your understanding about God is vitally important to correctly understanding the Gospel. Do you have a gospel where man has to do something for God or do you have a gospel of grace where God does it all and all we have to do is to believe? Whichever Gospel you have is determined by your view of God.

An individual thinking about God, even as an unbeliever will determine his attitude about morality.

**Genesis 1:27 (declares that) “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”**

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And this design defines sexual relationships. And I can't believe I have to add this, but to challenge the sex of a child and seek to medically and chemically change that sex is to deny the Sovereign decision of God.

But you see, if you do not recognize the Sovereign Authority of God, you think you have the right to challenge anything He says or does. This is true especially in the area of morality. This has nothing to do with one's attitude toward Jesus Christ, but toward your view of the Sovereign Omnipotent God Almighty. You respect the institution of marriage and family because of your respect of God. You respect the rights of others because you respect God Almighty who created us in His image.

Even our Constitution is dependent on an attitude about God. Learn what our forefathers thought about God from the Declaration of Independence.

*The 'laws of nature and of nature's God entitle' the United States to independence. Men 'are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.' Congress appeals 'to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions.'*

Because of their thinking about God, they know that man, created by God, has the unalienable right of independence. Unalienable means that these rights cannot be taken away or denied. Then, they understood that He is the Supreme Judge of the world, judging even the intentions. This is not about Jesus Christ. This is about their thinking about God. Our freedom, our independence is dependent on an attitude about God. And then the Declaration of Independence ends with these words:

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*“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”*

Oh, people, one’s attitude about God, who He is, and all that He is determines one’s attitude on morality and politics. Our precious nation is in the trouble it is in where one entire political party does not believe nor support the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Amendments to our Constitution, which they vowed to support, but now seek to actually change. This nation’s attitude about God and toward God and His very existence is illustrated in our gross immorality and broken political platform.

The Texas Constitution Preamble: “Humbly invoking the blessings of Almighty God, the people of the State of Texas, do ordain and establish this Constitution.”

We are in dire condition in this country. Why? Because of the changing thinking about God. And I am sorry to say this includes many so-called Christian Churches where one preacher teaches Universal Salvation, in spite of what the Bible proclaims about God’s perfect Righteousness. Others teach a gospel of works, distorting the Gospel given by God.

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**would be holy and blameless before Him. In love**

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**Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**

**Ephesians 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...** And people, we begin with what everyone should first learn about God. Blessed is a *noun* used as an *adjective* from the *noun* ‘to bless.’ And as an *adjective*, it means *inherently blessed; inherently worthy to be praised*. In the New Testament it is never used of humans but only of God.

**Mark 14:61 Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed**

**Luke 1:68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel**

**Romans 1:25 the creator who is blessed forever Amen**

**Romans 9:5 who is over all, God blessed forever Amen**



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**2 Corinthians 1:3 blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**2 Corinthians 11:31 Father of the Lord Jesus He who is blessed forever**

**Ephesians 1:3 blessed be the God even Father of our Lord Jesus**

**1 Peter 1:3 blessed be the God even Father of our Lord Jesus**

You will notice that in four of the eight references, He is *The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*. And oh, people, thank Him every day that He is the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, because that means that He is our father. When we pray to God the Father, we are allowed to do so because He is the Father of Jesus Christ and we are in Christ and therefore share with Christ, His Father being our Father. Remember this Greek *adjective* means worthy to be praised. We can praise Him in song, but you can also praise Him in your personal prayer life. Parents should teach their children to praise God the Father and only God the Father. Therefore, when they are told by others, including their teachers in school that Allah is to be praised or that Mary or Brahma-the Hindu god is to be praised they will know in their souls that only God the Father is worthy to be praised.

Speaking of being *worthy to be praised*, look at

**Ephesians 1:6 to the praise and glory of His grace...**

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Here we have another word for ‘praise.’ Here we have *epaineo* which is formed from the word *aineo* and the prefix *epi*—upon. The best way to translate this word is *over praise*. *Aineo* is an ovation, and *epaineo* would be like a standing ovation. So here in verse 6 we have a standing ovation for His Grace. And in verse 12 we would give standing ovation to His glory and again in verse 14 a standing ovation to His Glory.

The first thing we must learn and teach our children is that only the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is worthy to be praised and glorified. That only the members of the Trinity are worthy to be praised. Young people become God-conscious and, with that, they should immediately be taught that the only true God, is to be honored as God, as Deity! We are losing this in America, or we have already lost this by the majority. And therefore, our moral or actually immoral state reflects that most do not believe in God. And this is logically drifting over into our politics.

Look at

**Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth (about God) in unrighteousness,**

**Romans 1:19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.**

**Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal**

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**power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.**

**Romans 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

**Romans 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,**

**Romans 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.**

Please understand it all starts with God! The First person of the Trinity.

At first, it is not about Jesus Christ. It is about God Almighty! Worthy to be praised and glorified and desirable for a relationship with Him.

When you start to grasp this—you start desiring a relationship with Him and that is where Jesus comes into prominence.

You don't need a lot of Bible teaching to recognize God. God created everyone with this ability. But to know how to have a relationship with Him...now we have to have some sound Biblical teaching on the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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**Blessed or worthy to be praised.** Next we have the identification of the one worthy to be praised, noted by the definite article followed by *theos*, The God. In verse 2 we had *theos* without the definite article. So here is a good place to grasp the difference the definite article makes in the Greek. In verse 2 without the definite article, the quality or character of God our Father was emphasized. But now we have His identity: The God.

**Blessed The God** not *and* but **even** (that is the one who is) **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now we learn something from the Word of God not realized in our natural state, where we could come to recognize God. But now we move to something more about Him.

First, He is worthy to be praised and glorified.

Now He is Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. And this introduces a great deal of Biblical truth.

This starts with your thinking about God.

Since He is supreme, Almighty God.

You desire to have a relationship with Him.

So this brings the unbeliever to his first problem. How do I have an intimate relationship with this God? Where do I go to find this out? Someone tells you to go to the Word of God.

So, you go to His Word. Not to Joseph Smith or anyone else or any other book. You go into His Word to find out how to have a relationship with Him.

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And this presents the Second Major problem.

Who do I listen to about what the Bible teaches about salvation? Can I just read the Bible for myself and come to the correct gospel? The answer to this question is Yes, but it comes with a warning. Watchman Nee came to the true gospel by reading the Bible. But on the other hand multitudes have been led astray by interpreting the Bible for themselves. If you are seeking the Lord, He will lead you to the truth. That is, He will lead you to His Son. The only one He has sent into the world to provide the only way to come to Him. It is so important to correctly understand the true Gospel. For that will determine your relationship with Him thereafter.

**Blessed The God not *and* but *even* (that is the one who is) Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Here we learn that God is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only one sent by God whereby anyone and everyone can have a relationship with Him.

**John 3:16 For in this manner, loved, The God, the world, that The Son, the only begotten, He gave that – in order that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life**

Your entire prayer life is based on this phrase *The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*. Jesus Christ instructed the disciples in their prayer life: *Pray in this way: Our Father who is in heaven.*

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Please understand that He is your Father only when you have believed in Jesus as your Savior. When you believe in Jesus as your Savior, God does 34 things to you. And one of those is to put you into union with His Son Jesus Christ. This is so important to understand. This is why God is now your Father. This will explain predestination coming up in verse 11. This explains why you cannot lose your salvation, no matter what you do or say after you have believed in Jesus Christ as your Savior. You cannot undo what God has done to you. God will not undo what He has done to you at salvation. And oh, dear people, no matter how far you may have fallen, how far you have gotten away from God, He is still your Heavenly Father. He is there, with His arms wide open, ready to welcome you back. He is a loving, caring Father. So many people today have a difficult time thinking of God as their Father because of their earthly family relationships. Stay with the Father that is in the Bible. He is the Father of Jesus Christ and therefore is your Heavenly Father. In John 17, the Lord's Prayer, Jesus addresses His prayer to His Father. He will base His prayer on God being His Father six times in this one prayer. In verse 11 He addresses Him as Holy Father and in verse 25 as righteous Father.

How well do you know Him?

How often, when you are praying, do you let Him know you know who He is?

This will greatly enrich your prayer life when you address Him with various attributes that you know Him to be.

Holy Father

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Righteous Father;

Sovereign Father,

Loving Father, for today I am in need of your Love.

Forgiving Father, because today I am in need of your forgiveness.

Caring Father, for today I am in dire need of your loving care.

Omnipotent Father, for today I am in need of your Power;

Omnipresent Father, for today I am in need to know that you are here, that you have not deserted me. Oh, I need you close to me today!

Faithful Father, for I have not been faithful to you but you are faithful to your word, to your Son and therefore, and only because of your Son, are you faithful to me.

Sovereign Father for today we need your overruling authority in the protection of our President.

Blessed Father, for you have blessed me beyond my dreams.

Eternal Father, for here is my confidence of eternity, that I will be with you and with your Son, my Savior-friend.

***I praise you heavenly Father***