

*Blessed Be the Father: Part 1 of 4
Flying through Ephesians*

Ephesians 1:3–6

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INTRODUCTION

OUTLINING EPHESIANS 1:3–14

This is one Greek sentence in most texts

The divisions of the sentence are 3, 4–6, 7–12, 13–14

Note how the last three divisions end in *to the praise of ___ glory*

<p>³Blessed <i>be</i> the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly <i>places</i> in Christ, ⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. ⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth -- in Him. ¹¹In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹²that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. ¹³In Him you also <i>trusted</i>, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.</p>
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The basic flow of this paragraph

Believers should bless God the Father (1:3)

[The 1st reason believers should bless the Father is] because He prepared our inheritance (4–6)

[The 2nd reason believers should bless the Father is] because Christ achieved our inheritance (7–12)

[The 3rd reason believers should bless the Father is] because the HS protects our inheritance (13–14)

Believers should bless God the Father (1:3)

because the Father prepared our inheritance (4–6),

because Christ achieved our inheritance (7–12), and

because the Holy Spirit protects our inheritance (13–14)

Why is it important that this is one sentence?

Interpreting Ephesians 1:3:

1. Is this a statement of fact or an exhortation?

As a statement of fact: Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

As an exhortation: 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,

Solution: Interpret Ephesians 1:3 in keeping with its rôle as a bookend

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. . . .

The Father's power on our behalf (1:3–3:19)

Now to Him [the Father] who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (3:20–21)

Sidelight: An important interpretive issue on Ephesians 3:30–21

2. The Father is Christ's Father, but is He also Christ's God?

This is a Granville Sharp singular construction

Compare Ephesians 1: ___

Interpreting Ephesians 1:4–6: the Father's work in eternity past to prepare our inheritance

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

What is election? On what basis did God choose?

We will have sufficient context to discuss this issue next week

The choosing or election to which Paul refers was before He founded the world

The purpose of the choosing was that we should be holy and without blame

Is election (choosing) synonymous with predestination?

The text says, “He chose us. . . . having predestined us

Where do we place the phrase “in love”?

that we would be holy and blameless before Him. **In [divine] love, having predestined** us (NASB)

that we **should be holy and without blame before Him in [human] love,** having predestined us (NKJV)

The NASB views the phrase “in love” as God lovingly predestining us because they think that human love does not belong in Eph 1–3

The NKJV views the phrase “in love” as us manifesting love before Him

Validation of the NKJV interpretation:

1. Husbands, love your wives,
2. just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,
3. that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,
4. **that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.**

Line 2 (above) happened at the cross	Phase 1
Line 3 (above) occurs within the Christian life	Phase 2
Line 4 (above) occurs in Christ’s presence	Phase 3

The NASB has assumed that the phrase that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love would be a phase 2 idea, whereas Paul is speaking of a phase 3 idea. Therefore, human love is not inappropriate to the context of Ephesians 1:4.

CONCLUSIONS AND APPLICATIONS