

The origin of the Church Ephesians 1: 1-14

Your vision of the Church is dependent on your point of view.

- For some it is the building. For some it is the institution. For others it is the denomination and the hierarchy.
- Paul had no doubts. v1 "*To the saints. the faithful in Christ.*"
- The Church is the **people**, who are saved by Christ and who are in turn faithful to him.

In finding the **origin** of the **Church**.....Paul speaks....

1. **There is a Divine Purpose 3-6.**
2. **There is a Divine plan 4-7**
3. **There is a Divine Process. 11-14.**

There is a Divine Purpose 3-6

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. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*

God chose us!

- Paul indicates the **fact** of God's choice. He stresses the **bounty** of God's choice.
- He underlines the **purpose** of God's choice.
- To be **holy** and **blameless**. The reason being that otherwise we are sinners. All have sinned and come short of God's glory.
- Being chosen by God does not take us out of the world. We have to live in it.
- But it means he must be **different** within that world.
- Blameless is a sacrificial word. For a Christian to be like that the whole of his life, work and leisure, but be as an **offering** to God.

In 5,6 the ideas of **adoption** is significant. *In love ⁵he^[c] predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.*

- The real father sold his son twice and bought him back then sold him for a third time, for good.
- Then the son had full rights as a legitimate son of the new father.
- He was a new person. Certainly all his debts were cancelled out.

That is what God has done for us, in making us his son.

- **We are made new, and the adoption takes us from the family of the world into the family of God.**

There is a Divine plan 7-10

Here we have the concepts of **deliverance** and **forgiveness**.

⁷*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding* The idea is of a **slave** who is under the penalty of death.

- In the same way man was under the penalty of death for sin. He could not help himself.

All history has been working out this plan 9,10. . ⁹*And he^[d] made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.*

- History is a plan and purpose that is working out the will of God.
- That is the faith of the Christian and Paul sees the task of the church to work out that plan and purpose.
- The will of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

There is a Divine Process. 11-14. (The manner of God's operation.)

¹¹In him we were also chosen,^[e] having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Two things happened to those who were Christians.

- They received the **word** of God, which gave them the truth and the **good news about God**.
- **They were sealed with the Holy Spirit.**
- In those days a package would have a large seal on it to show where it came from and where it was going.

The Holy Spirit shows that a Christian belongs to God. ***Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.***

- It was the part of the purchase price of an article which was placed as a **deposit** and **security** that the full agreed purchase price would be paid.
- One day the Christian will experience the fullness of joy which is the blessedness of the Lord. At present, God's salvation is the foretaste.
- God has given us at present enough to whet our appetite.
- He has given us enough to make us certain that one day He will give us his all!

That is the Divine process. The manner of God's operation.

And that is the story of the Church.

It was conceived in the heart of God.

- We need a higher concept of it.
- We ought to have a deeper understanding of it.
- Paul has taught us something theological, historical and experimental. He has involved the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Is it any wonder he exclaimed in 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"***