

In The Family of God Ephesians 1:3-7

I. Related to God in Christ – 1:3-4

1. Our God is the God & Father of Christ – 3

Notice how Paul refers to God

Found in other New Testament passages

Romans 15:6; 2 Corinthians 1:3; 11:31;

Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:2-3

Consider how Jews referred to God in O.T.

God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

Exodus 3:15; Genesis 22:32; Acts 3:13

This reminded them of God's covenant

Their relationship with God was only through the fathers

Our relationship with God is only in Jesus Christ

He established the New Covenant with God –

Matt. 26:27-28

Hebrews 9:15 – He also included O.T. saints

Paul links it together in Christ – Galatians 3:13-16; 26-29

In Christ we enjoy all of God's rich blessing – 1:3

All spiritual blessings are ours in Christ

Paul will enumerate some of them in his epistle

Jesus pleased God perfectly – Matt. 17:5; Jn 8:29

2. Chosen by God before foundation of world - 4

Being in Christ we are His own chosen people

All who are in Christ by faith are in God's family –

John 1:12-13

This is God's sovereign choice which He made in eternity

3. God also determined to make us holy in Christ – 4

We stand before God loved & without blame in Christ

II. God's Sovereign Purpose for Us – 4-6

1. Holy and without blame before Him in love - 4

This is God's purpose for us in Christ

That we might be conformed to the image of

Christ – Rom. 8:29

2. Predestined to be adopted as His children - 5

This is God's plan and His eternal will for us

Greek word is "placing as adult sons" – Gal. 4:1-5

Not just children but adult sons – note Heb. 2:10

It is predetermined, God will bring it to completion

3. We might bring glory and honor to Him - 6

That all might know He is a gracious & loving God

That He might be praised & glorified for His grace

4. We might be acceptable to God in Christ - 6

Christ is God's beloved, in Christ we are accepted

We are His bride and accepted in Him

III. God's Gracious Provision in Christ – 1:7

1. Redemption through His blood

Sacrifice of Christ has fully paid penalty of our sin

God has bought us back so that we belong to Him

2. We have complete forgiveness of all sin

There is no condemnation to those who are in

Christ – Rom. 8:1

3. We do not merit this, it is all of His grace

God's grace is unlimited in its riches