

Sunday, January 15,2012

Ephesians Ch. 1:1-14

Vs. 1-2

Here in verse 1 & 2 Paul gives his usual introduction. In verse 1, he identifies himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ. Paul does this in 9 of the 13 letters, where he identifies himself as the author. In the other four, he identifies himself as either a servant or prisoner of Jesus Christ. Some Bible scholars believe that Paul also wrote the Hebrew letter. If he did write this letter, he did not identify himself as the author. In verse 2, Paul ask for grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ towards the church at Ephesus. Paul does this in all thirteen letters that he wrote.

We must understand that nine of Paul's letters were written to congregations of the Lord's church and the other four were written to members of the church. Paul is not writing to the unsaved but to people who have accepted Jesus as their savior and have been buried with him in baptism and raised to a new life. Paul makes this plain in I Corinthians 5: 9-12.

Vs. 3-5

The Father has blessed us through Jesus. He has chosen us, the Church, to be Holy and blameless in his sight before the creation of the world. He has adopted us as sons and daughters through Jesus our Lord. God has predestined anyone who will confess that Jesus is the Son of God and be buried with him in baptism to have eternal life.

The basic definition of predestination is to determine before hand the destiny of a person, place or thing. Some people believe and teach that Paul's use of the this word in his writings to the Church proves that God has decided before hand the fate of all people. I believe that this is taught in error and that the scriptures bear this out. Ro. 8: 28-32---I Tim. 2: 1-3.

To understand Paul's use of the word predestination, we must understand that God is omnipotent and omnipresent. He is all knowing and all seeing. He tells us in his word that he is the beginning and the end that he is from everlasting to everlasting. In Psalms 53: 2 David writes these words--God looks down from Heaven on all men to see if there any who understand and

any who seek God. The Hebrew writer tells us in 4:13 that nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight.

Two things that help me to understand God's omnipotence and his omnipresence. These two things are time and space. Let's talk about time first. With God there is no time. God created time for man kind. Peter writes in II Peter 3: 8 but do not forget this one thing dear friends: with the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day. He is patient with us not wanting anyone to perish but wanting everyone to come to repentance. Space or the cosmos helps me to understand eternity. I have always been fascinated with outer space. It is amazing to me that there is no beginning or end to the universe. If we had a spaceship that has an unlimited supply of fuel, we could leave the earth and travel for ever. In outer space there is no up or down, no north and south, no east and west. Outer space is like eternity, it has no beginning and no end. The only thing in God's creation that has a beginning and end is humanity. God tells us through his apostle Paul, in Romans 1: 19-20 that since what may be known about God is plain ever since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature are clearly shown by what he has created. So that men are without excuse in knowing that he exist.

We know that God knows us before we are born (Jer. 1:3) and God already knows how and when we will die. An example of God's ability to know the future is shown by the prophecy that Jesus made in Luke Chs: 11, 19,21. We know, because it is recorded history, that sometime around AD 70 the Roman army surrounded Jerusalem and laid siege to the city. They cut off all travel to and from Jerusalem. They literally starved the Jews into submission. I am told that what the Romans did to them was inhumane. LK. 11:47-51--LK. 19:41-44--LK. 21:5-6, 20-24.

Vs 6-8

In Jesus we have redemption of our sins through his blood--Col. 1:12-14
In Mt. 16:16-19, Jesus refers to his church and his kingdom being one in the same. In Col. 1:18, Paul says that Christ body and the church is one in the same.

Vs. 9-10

God has made known to us the mystery of his will, to bring together

everything under one head, even Jesus. Col. 1:15-20--Eph. 3:8-13--I
Tim.3:13-15--Col. 3:11-14.

Vs. 11-14

The Father has chosen and predestined all of us who accepts Jesus as our
Savior to be conformed to his will. When we do what Jesus ask us to do, in
Acts 2:38 we are marked by a seal, God's Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38, Acts 5:
29-32, I Thess. 4:8, Ro. 8:26-27--I Cor. 2:9-14.