

Living in light of God's Eternal Plan
Ephesians 1:1-14

What caused Paul to so gloriously worship & praise God in his introductory doxology?
It has a great deal to do with what he understood about God's Eternal Plan.

1A. The Fact of God's Eternal Plan – 1:5, 9, 11

- 1B. God has a plan – 1:5, 9, 11; 3:11
- 2B. God works out everything according to His plan – 1:11

2A. The Initiation of God's Eternal Plan – 3:11

3A. The Areas Affected by God's Eternal Plan

1B. God's Plan & Our Salvation – 1:3-14

- 1C. We were chosen by God – 1:4 – *and flowing from that:*
- 2C. We were predestined by God – 1:5, 11
- 3C. We were redeemed by God – 1:7
- 4C. We were endowed by God – 1:11-12
- 5C. We were sealed by God – 1:13-14

2B. God's Plan & Our Service – 3:1-13

- 1C. We each have a God-designed area of service – 3:1-13
- 2C. We each have a God-designed role – 4:1-16
- 3C. We each have a God-designed purpose – 4:1-16; 6:18-20
 - 1D. To share with the lost – 6:18-20
 - 2D. To strengthen the saved – 4:1-16

3B. God's Plan & Our Suffering/Circumstances – 3:1; 4:1

- 1C. Don't be deceived by Suffering/Circumstances – 3:1; 4:1
- 2C. Don't be discouraged by Suffering/Circumstances – 3:13
- 3C. Don't be disillusioned by Suffering/Circumstances – Phil. 1:12-13; 4:22

4A. The Response to God's Eternal Plan – 1:5, 9, 11; 1:17ff.

- 1B. Coming – *Theologically* – to Understand God's Eternal Plan – 1:5, 9, 11; 3:11
- 2B. Coming – *Experientially* – to Clearly See God's Plan – 1:17ff.

In conclusion: Have a sense of 'fulfillment' – NOT 'frustration' –

- ***Over Who God Caused You to Be***
- ***What God Caused you to Face***

