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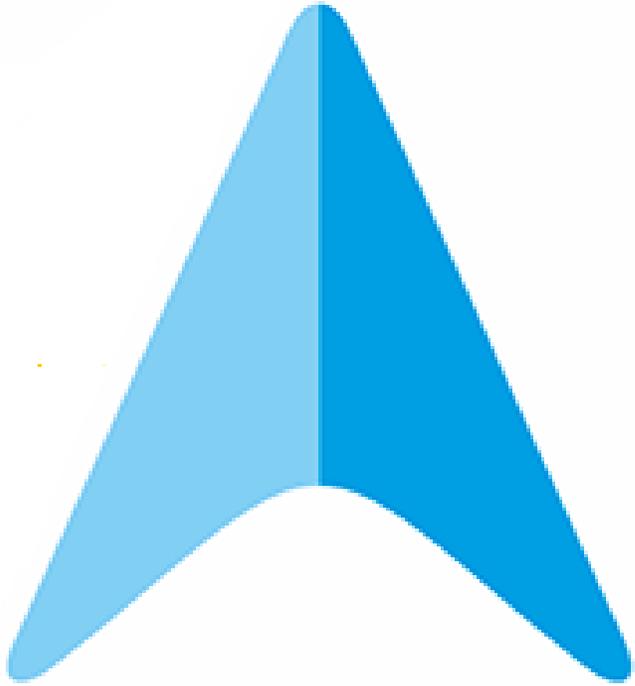
# EPHESIANS

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BECOME WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST

**There are three very important threads that are woven all throughout the Book of Ephesians.**





**The first is the  
eternal position  
of the believer.**



**The second is the  
conditional practice  
of the believer.**



**The third is the  
immutable plan  
of God.**

# The Position of the Believer





# Position

By 'position' we mean,  
the believers holy STANDING  
before God.



# Position

**By 'position' we mean,  
the way that the believer is SEEN in  
the eyes of God.**



# Position

By 'position' we mean,  
the STATUS of the believer  
now in the courtroom of God.



# Position

**The believers' position is eternal, totally holy & unalterable, and is based on the accomplishment of Christ.**

# The Condition of the Believer





# Condition

**By 'condition' we mean,  
the STATE of the believer  
as they remain on earth.**



# Condition

**By 'condition' we mean,  
the SINFUL capacity of the believer  
as they retain the flesh.**



# Condition

**By 'condition' we mean,  
the daily PRACTICE of the believer in  
their thoughts, attitudes & actions.**



# Condition

**The believers' condition is temporary & may be either sinful or holy, and is based on their momentary actions.**



The book of Ephesians is about  
**becoming who we really are.**

**That is,  
that believers begin to be,  
in their **condition**,  
what they already are,  
in their **position**.**

“...lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.” (4:1)

Live a life (condition)  
that is worthy & inline with,  
your heavenly calling (position)

“...throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.

Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.”

(4:22-24)



**The book of Ephesians is about becoming who we really are and therefore fulfilling the eternal plan of God.**

# Chapter



## Part 1

(v1-14)

# Chapter 1: Introducing this eternal position!



*God has blessed us with every  
spiritual blessing in the  
heavenly realms because  
**we are united with Christ. (v3)***

God has ***chosen us in Christ to be  
holy and without fault in his eyes.***

(v3-4)

God has ***chosen us in Christ to be adopted into his own family.***

(v3-4)

God has poured out grace onto  
those who **belong to his Son.**

(v6)

God has *united us with Christ.*

(v11)

God has given us a  
***great inheritance.*** (v11)

*Through belief, God has  
**identified us as his own.** (v13)*

*Through Christ,  
God has purchased us to be  
**his own people.** (v13)*

**Let's examine this  
incredible position!**



**This incredible position was...**



**Predetermined before all time,  
unto the pleasure of God.**



Even **before he made the world,**  
God loved us and chose us in Christ  
to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God  
**decided in advance to adopt us** into his  
own family by bringing us to himself through  
Jesus Christ. **This is what he wanted to do,  
and it gave him great pleasure.**

(Eph 1:4-5, NLT)

...even as he chose us in him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **he predestined us for adoption** to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, **according to the purpose of his will.**

(Eph 1:4-5, ESV)

God has now revealed to us his  
mysterious will regarding Christ—  
which **is to fulfill his own  
good pleasure.**

(Eph 1:9, NLT)

**Predetermined before all time,  
unto the pleasure of God.**



A very important thing to understand about our incredible position and about God's marvelous plan is that this concept of creating a **redeemed people & an adopted family** was a plan existing in the mind of God from eternity past.

This plan of creating a **redeemed people** & an **adopted family** existed in the mind of God before the creation of the world, and it was designed according to His good purpose for His great pleasure.

For **those whom he foreknew he also predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And **those whom he predestined** he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

(Rom 8:28-30, ESV)

The fact that God would allow a fallen human being to be \*redeemed through the blood of Christ and be \*adopted into His family and be \*granted this incredible position of complete holiness and perfection was something that God had planned far in advance...

This concept was planned far before  
the creation of mankind and  
was planned far before the man  
and woman would chose to sin  
against the Lord.

The point is that God did not react to Adam and Eve's sin in the garden and devise a redemptive plan as it were on the spot...rather, God already knew, pre-creation & pre-fall, what would happen and how He would respond.

The idea is that God, His Son and His Spirit, before the creation of the world foreknew/foresaw exactly what would occur in the garden...

...and they

preplanned/predetermined what their response would be...a plan of redemption that would bring about a holy, perfect people, adopted into his family.

This is why Revelation 13:8  
can say that Jesus Christ is...

“the Lamb who was **slain before the  
creation of the world.**”

## Revelation 13:8

“the Lamb having been slain/slaughtered from before/since the establishing of the world/universe and it’s inhabitants”

Furthermore, the idea is that when God, His Son and His Spirit were 'considering' or 'contemplating' creating the world...and when they foreknew the sin of mankind and when they also foreknew their response in redemption;

They determined that it was still worth bringing the world and mankind into existence and very much so worth it because it would be to the praise of the glory of God.

In fact, the idea of sending His Son to  
redeem a fallen people and the idea of  
creating a new, perfect and holy people...  
an adopted people, indwelt by His Spirit  
...greatly pleased the Lord...it gave the  
Lord great pleasure.

This is why Isaiah 53:10 can say that...

It **pleased** the LORD to bruise Him;  
He has put *Him* to grief. When You make His  
soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* seed,  
He shall prolong *His* days, And the **pleasure**  
of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

This is why Isaiah 46:10 can say that...

**Declaring the end from the beginning,  
And from ancient times things which  
have not been done, Saying, 'My  
purpose will be established, And I will  
accomplish all My good pleasure'**

# Summary:

Our great, incredible, holy and perfect **position** before God, as a redeemed and adopted people, was a **plan** determined by God before the foundations of the world, before the creation of man and before the fall into sin.

# Summary:

God was greatly pleased to bring about this plan and the unfolding of and completion of this plan throughout history (through his Son) brings God great honor, praise and glory.

# Summary:

Furthermore, this plan brings God great pleasure because it is by this plan that He is ultimately honored, glorified and praised. And God's honor and glory being esteemed and praised etc. is what brings Him great pleasure.

# Summary:

Furthermore, this plan is the best of all plans. Meaning, that when God, in His infinite wisdom, before the foundations of the world, surveyed the coming creation and the eventual fall...

# Summary:

...and when he (instantaneously) contemplated all His possible responses; this plan of redemption and adoption, this plan of the cross and salvation, was determined to be the best of all possible plans resulting in maximum glory and honor for His name.

**This incredible position was...**



**Purchased by the blood of Christ,  
unto the plan of Christ's authority.**



He is so rich in kindness and grace that **he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son** and forgave our sins. (Eph 1:7, NLT)

God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is **to fulfill his own good plan. And this is the plan:** At the right time **he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ**—everything in heaven and on earth. (Eph 1:9-10, ESV)

**Purchased by the blood of Christ,  
unto the plan of Christ's authority.**



Another very important thing to understand about our incredible position and about God's marvelous plan is that this position that we have been given was **purchased** for us by the very blood of Christ.

Furthermore, the end goal of this very incredible position is that everything in our lives and everything on earth would be brought under the authority of, under the lordship of, and under the leadership of Jesus Christ.

Bringing everything under the authority of Christ has also been the plan of God from before the foundations of the world, and this also brings God great pleasure.

Bringing everything under the authority of Christ is the pinnacle of or the goal of or the end aim of all of God's planning and all of God's working in history.

Bringing everything under the authority of Christ is the goal for the condition of and the life of the believer.

**This incredible position was...**



**Purposed through the Jewish nation  
unto the praise of God.**



God's purpose was that **we Jews who were the first to trust** in Christ **would bring praise and glory to God**. And now **you Gentiles have also heard the truth**, the Good News that God saves you... **He did this so we would praise and glorify him**. (Eph 1:7, 13-14, NLT)

**Purposed through the Jewish nation  
unto the praise of God.**



Another very important thing to understand about our incredible position and about God's marvelous plan is that God purposed to bring this plan about through the Jewish nation.

God did plan to allow the Gentiles to be  
an important part of this plan and  
to allow them to enjoy this incredible  
position, but only after having purposed  
to use the Jewish nation as  
His voice piece.

And God planned all of this, for the increased praise of his glory. He did all this so that all the more people would praise and glorify him. In his infinite wisdom and love, He saw this as the best plan to reach men and to receive praise and glory.

**This incredible position was...**



**Promised for all of eternity,  
unto the praise of God, by the Spirit.**



**The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised** and that he has purchased us to be his own people. **He did this so we would praise and glorify him.** (Eph 1:13-14, NLT)

**Promised for all of eternity,  
unto the praise of God, by the Spirit.**



Another very important thing to understand about our incredible position and about God's marvelous plan is that God purposed for this position to be eternal and infinite in nature.

He planned that the Holy Spirit would be a deposit that he would make, guaranteeing the finality and eternality of his plan in the life of the believer.

**Next Week**

# **Chapter**



**Part 2**

**(v15-23)**