

Week 1, Ephesians: Chapter 1, Part 1 (Vs 1-14)

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

The first is the eternal _____ of the believer.

The second is the conditional _____ of the believer.

The third is the immutable _____ of God.

The Position of the Believer

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

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

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

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

The Condition of the Believer

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

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

By 'condition' we mean, the daily _____ of the believer in thought, attitude & action.

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

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

Chapter 1, Part 1 (Vs 1-14)

Let's examine this incredible position! This incredible position was...

_____ before all time, unto the _____ 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)

-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. (See Rom 8:28-30)

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

-God was greatly _____ 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.

-This plan brings God great _____ 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.

-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... 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.

_____ **by the blood of Christ, unto the _____ 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. 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 1:7, 9-10 NLT)

-This position that we have been given was _____ for us by the very blood of Christ.

-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 _____ of, and under the _____ 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 _____ 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.

_____ **through the Jewish nation unto the _____ 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)

-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. 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.

_____ **for all of eternity, unto the _____ 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)

-God purposed for this position to be _____ and _____ in nature.

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