



Sermon Notes: June 14, 2015

Holy

2 of 14 from the teaching series "The Messiah's Community"

Ephesians 1:1-10 • Pastor Paul Bradford

Ephesians 1:1-10

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

God's eternal plan for us

- *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ...*
- To be holy, a people who are blameless toward him, and filled with love for others - what we are surely becoming.
- Our holiness: we are finite, brought into existence by God; we are set apart for him.
- God's holiness: he is THE set apart one - infinitely above all creation, tremendous in awe, beyond comprehension, perfect in love, purity, and truth; eternal, from everlasting to everlasting.
- Blameless: without defect or blemish.
- A sacrificial animal had to be perfect, with no blemish - an outward symbol of the inner purity that God requires.
- Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, the lamb without blemish: *1 Peter 1:18*
- God chose you for a purpose, and his purpose will be accomplished - he is making you holy and blameless before him in love. *Romans 8:29*

God's finished work in us

- *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace...*
- What we are right now: God's holy people - consecrated to God, reserved for God and God's service.
- Our sins have been paid for, we are a new creation. *2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 5:8*

Our Response

You are holy! Think that way! Live that way!

- Remember who you are: you belong to God, you are Saints, God's holy people; you are in union with Christ!
- Our righteousness is not because of ourselves, but because the righteous one is in us. *Philippians 3:9*