

The Name- The Name Above All Names

### Proverbs 30:4

<sup>4</sup>Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name or His son's name? Surely you know!

Ephesians 1 is like a pyramid: The broad base is God's grand master plan, and the pinnacle is the focused image of Christ.

### Ephesians 1

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and *who are* faithful in Christ Jesus: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome to the family! God is your Father and Jesus your elder brother!

But how? How is it possible that we could belong to the family of God?

<sup>3</sup>Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, <sup>4</sup>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup>He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Before the world was made, before you had a chance to do anything good or evil, He chose you in Christ for adoption!

In choosing us, He revealed His benevolent nature, the kindness of His will, the glory of His grace, and called us to share in His Holiness.

But how? How is it possible that we could ever hope to be like God, to be holy like Him?

<sup>7</sup>In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup>which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him <sup>10</sup>with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him <sup>11</sup>also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup>to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup>In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, <sup>14</sup>who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

He has redeemed us, forgiven us, and cleansed us in Christ's Blood, working all things so that we would come to Him.

He has sealed us with the promised Holy Spirit, God in us, who also testifies to our future redemption!

While we remain here, we have a mission to fulfill: We are to reveal Him in the world, and bring Him glory.

But how? What does it really mean to live for the praise of His glory?

<sup>15</sup>For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup>do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers; <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. <sup>18</sup>*I pray*

*that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might <sup>20</sup> which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

This world will know God to the degree they have seen Him in us, heard Him in us, and felt Him when they were with us.

Living for the praise of His glory means we live to see one Name exalted, filling everything around me, and becoming greater.

I will also have to forsake every path that I pursue for my own glory, for my own name and reputation, and satisfaction.

This is the pinnacle of our redeemed purpose; one name: Jesus

“Father, I want Jesus to fill every part of my life. I give you myself and my days. I give you my job, and every relationship in my life. I give you my money and my plans. Show me how You can receive glory through them; whether I keep them, lose them, or use them, let me do it all for the glory of Jesus’ name. Amen.”