

EPHESIANS 1:11-23

Predestined and Prayed Over

Predestined

(*gk. proorizo* | *pro, horizo*) – Boundary line

Atonement through the sacrifice of the incarnation was always God's plan in redemption history, determined prior to the covenant with Abraham (Gen. 15:6, Rom. 4:3), law through Moses (Matt. 5:17), and oracles of the prophets (Jer. 31:31-34, Isaiah 53).

vv. 11-14 PREDESTINED TO BE HOLY

- **Predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus** (Romans 8:29).
 - The inheritance of holiness is obtained.
 - The inheritance of holiness is sealed and revealed.
 - The inheritance of holiness is confirmed.
 - The inheritance of holiness WILL BE possessed.

The holiness of God is both familiar and alien. We can think of holiness categorically, in terms of the existence and nature of the One who is holy and compared to all that which is not. It is familiar inasmuch that God reveals His nature to us through His word and in a dynamic relationship through the Holy Spirit. It is familiar because God is in the process of making us holy through the work of the Holy Spirit.

However, we cannot think of holiness in terms of gradation or magnitude, comprehending the weight of a maximally holy being. The holiness of God is alien because there is nothing in the world (the cosmos of created things) to which we can compare to God's purity, blamelessness, and perfection.

When we encounter this holiness, we see ourselves in relation to it (consider the experiences of Isaiah or Peter). There could be nothing more unbearable for a sinful person than to be forced to remain in the presence of God. The only way a person can stand to endure the presence of such holiness is to become it. Paul teaches us in this passage of Ephesians that the Holy Spirit is our guarantee that when we step into that moment of awe, we will "acquire possession" of holiness.

Deaf will hear... the blind will see... the lame will walk again.

vv. 15-23 PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL BLESSING

1. A Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation of KNOWING JESUS
2. Eyes enlightened to the hope of full inheritance (spiritual and material)
3. Know the hope of Jesus' Resurrection that is now and forever (in the age to come)
 - a. Victory
 - b. Sovereignty
 - c. Authority/Supremacy
4. Church to thrive with Christ as the head

Ephesians 1:11-23 (CSB)

1 ¹¹In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, ¹²so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory.

¹³In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. ¹⁴The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

Prayer for Spiritual Insight

¹⁵This is why, since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶I never stop giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.

God's Power in Christ

²⁰He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens—
²¹far above every ruler and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in this age but also in the one to come.²² And **he subjected everything under his feet** and appointed him as head over everything for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.