



Ephesians 1:11-14

## God's Heirs

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We are to celebrate together and to seek to live out in the church what God has secured for our eternity:

We are heirs together of the kingdom of God.

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The five solas of the reformation:

- Sola scriptura (Scripture alone)
- Solus Christus (Christ alone)
- Sola fide (faith alone)
- Sola gratia (grace alone)
- Soli Deo gloria (glory to God alone).

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God has done in the gospel what we could never have done ourselves:

He reconciled us to God and to one another forever.

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Ephesians 1:11-12

Paul's Story:

Saved By Grace  
Alone To the Glory of  
God Alone

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Ephesians 1:11-12

**"In him, we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory."**

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**Christ Alone**

**Only in Christ did Paul as a believing Jew become an heir of the kingdom of God.**

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Ephesians 1:11 (NIV)

**"In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will"**

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Deuteronomy 32:8,9

“When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. But the Lord’s portion is his people, Jacob His allotted heritage.”

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Psalms 33:11-12

“The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.”

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Grace Alone

Only By God’s power did Paul become an heir of the kingdom of God.

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Ephesians 1:11-12

"In him, we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will"

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Deuteronomy 7:6,7

"For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set His love on you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath he swore to your fathers."

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R.C. Sproul

"The reason the believer makes the good response is because God in His sovereign election changes the disposition of the heart of the elect to effect a good response. I can take no credit for the response that I made for Christ. God not only initiated my salvation, He not only sowed the seed, but He made sure that that seed germinated in my heart by regenerating me by the power of the Holy Ghost. That regeneration is a necessary condition for the seed to take root and to flourish."

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To the Glory of God Alone

Only By God's power did Paul become an heir of the kingdom of God.

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1 Timothy 1:15-17

"The saying is trustworthy and deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life. **To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**"

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Clinton Arnold

"To praise his glory is thus to recognize that he is the one true God, the creator of heaven and earth, and to give him the honor due him. God has no peer. As the psalmist explains, "the gods of the nations are idols" (Ps 96:5). God is the one eternal King and displays the majesty of his sovereign authority. For that alone, he is worthy of honor and praise" Clinton Arnold

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The Ephesians' Story:  
They too are trophies of God's sovereign grace.

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In Christ Alone  
Only in Christ did the Gentiles become heirs of God.

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Ephesians 1:13-14  
"In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory."

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By Faith Alone  
In the Word of  
God Alone

The Gentiles became heirs by faith  
in the word of truth.

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Ephesians 1:13-14

"In Him you also, when you heard  
the word of truth, the gospel of  
your salvation, and believed in  
him..."

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Martin Luther

"When they extol the authority of  
the fathers or they extol the  
authority of Augustine or of  
Gregory and likewise of the  
councils, our answer is 'Those  
things have no claim on us. We  
demand the word.'"

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By Grace Alone

The Gentiles were sealed by the Holy Spirit.

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To the Glory of God Alone

The Ephesians were trophies to the saving grace of God alone.

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John Stott

"How did we become his people? Answer: 'According to the good pleasure of his will.' Why did he make us his people? Answer for the praise of the glory of his grace.' Thus everything we have and are in Christ both comes from God and returns to God. It begins in his will and ends in his glory. For this is where everything begins and ends."

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