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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas



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Glory of God in the Church A Study in Ephesians

Date	Lesson	Text
08/30	Introduction	
09/06	In Christ	1:1-14
09/13	Providing Hope	1:15-23
09/20	Providing Grace Pt 1	2:1-10
09/27	Providing Grace Pt 2	2:11-21
10/04	In Revelation	3:1-21
10/11	Empowering Conduct	4:1-16
10/18	Bro. Smarto	
10/25	Bro. Smarto	
11/01	Putting Off Old Self	4:17-32
11/08	Living as Lights	5:1-21
11/15	In Submission	6:1-9
11/22	In Victory	6:10-24
11/29	THANKSGIVING	
12/06	Summary & Review	

Food for Thought

HIDDEN IN CHRIST

Although we stumble every day,
The Lord is always there
To pick us up, forgive our sin,
And show His love and care.
Our salvation is secure because
God is doing the holding.

*For you died, and your life is now
hidden with Christ in God.*

Colossians 3:3 (NIV)

(From "Our Daily Bread" June 17, 1997)

Glory of God: In Christ

Eph 1:1-14

As we begin this lesson, I am reminded of the words spoken by our Lord concerning marriage: "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate" (Matthew 19:6). Of course, Jesus was speaking of marriage, not biblical exposition here. Nevertheless, I take His words seriously. The fact is that God has "joined together" verses 3-14 of Ephesians chapter 1 into but one sentence in the original text. It is with some reservation that I teach these verses in parts, rather than as a whole. Perhaps the problem is not entirely mine, however, for I doubt that many Christians are willing to sit through a sermon which is several hours in length. The entire sentence/paragraph lays the foundation for Paul's epistle to the Ephesians. **It sums up the blessings of God to the saints, in a span of time which begins before the creation (eternity past), includes all of human history, and eternity future.** It is a very brief summary of the blessings of God which are the basis for our worship, praise, and obedience. **These blessings are spiritual blessings, brought about in Christ, but involving the activity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.** The work of the Son is the emphasis of verses 6b-10, although the entire text deals with God's blessings "in Christ." In these verses Paul concentrates on **two major dimensions of the work of Christ.** The **first is the work of Christ in relation to the salvation of lost sinners**—the redemption which He accomplished through the shedding of His blood at Calvary. The **second is the work of Christ in relation to the eternal purpose of God, that is the "summing up of all things in Christ."** The second of these two themes is the most prominent. This is because God's glory is the dominant theme of Ephesians. It is also because the "summing up of all things in Christ" is the main topic in chapters 2 and 3, which is first introduced in our text. While the work of Christ in saving lost sinners has been thoroughly expounded by Paul and the other apostles in other epistles, the theme of God's summing up all things in Christ is expounded more fully here (and in Colossians) than anywhere else in the Bible. The work of Christ, then, is described in verses 6b-10 as having two major roles: (1) accomplishing the redemption of lost sinners, and (2) accomplishing the purpose of God in "summing up all things in Christ." All too often, we think of the work of our Lord at Calvary as only for us, for our salvation. It is more than this, much more. Christ's death at Calvary encompasses far more than just our salvation, as important as our salvation is to us. The danger is that we will look upon Calvary in a self-centered way. In this text, **Paul informs us that Christ's work at Calvary accomplished our salvation, and that it achieved a purpose much greater in scope.** Let us not let the eternal purposes of God revolve around the "earth" of our salvation. Rather, **let our salvation revolve around the "solar system" of God's eternal, cosmic plan, which includes our salvation as just one small part of a much greater plan.**

Several truths and inferences emerge from our text in Ephesians, concerning the summing up of all things in Christ:

1. **God has, from eternity past, planned to sum up all things in Christ.**
2. **The summing up of all things in Christ is God's plan for human history.** It is also the climax, the culmination of human history. It is the conclusion of God's plan for time, and the commencement of God's plan for men in eternity.
3. **God is sovereign, in control of all history, so that His plan to sum up all things in Christ is certain.**
4. **The plan to sum up all things in Christ is the result and the reflection of God's infinite wisdom and sight (Ephesians 1:8; see also Romans 11:33-36).**
5. **The summing up of all things in Christ centers in the person of Christ, in His first and second comings.**
6. **The summing up of all things in Christ provides for the reversal of the fall of Adam, and the restoration of all creation from its devastating effects (see Romans 5:12-21 and 8:19-25).**
7. **God's plan to sum up all things in Christ was a mystery until after the coming of Christ.** The plan to sum up all things in Christ is one made in eternity past. It is a plan that God partially revealed in time. This plan was a mystery in that it was not revealed in full and in that it was not understood.
8. **The proclamation and explanation of God's plan to sum up all things in Christ was a part of Paul's special calling and a commission given him by God (see Ephesians 3:1-13).**

(Excerpt from "Ephesians: The Glory of God in the Church" by Robert L. Deffinbaugh)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

IN CHRIST THROUGH CHOICE (1:1-6)

For Holiness (vs 1-4)

- God chose and appointed us for holiness (John 15:16)
- God predestined and conformed us into holiness (Rom 8:28-29)
- God created us and prepared us in advance for holiness (Eph 2:10)
- God clothed us in holiness (Col 3:12)
- God called us to live a holy life (1Thes 4:7)

For Adoption (vs 5-6)

- Because we received and believed in God, He gave us the right to be a Child of His (John 1:12)
- If we are led by the Holy Spirit we are children of God (Rom 8:13-14)
- Through the Holy Spirit's indwelling, God is our father (Gal 4:6-7)

IN CHRIST THROUGH SACRIFICE (1:7-10)

For Redemption (vs 7-8)

- Through justification of grace (Rom 3:22-24)
- Through being in Jesus (1 Cor 1:30)
- Through the rescuing by Jesus (Col 1:13-14)
- Through the blood of Jesus (Heb 9:13-15)
- Through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus (1 Pet 1:18-19)
- Through the purchase by Jesus (Rev 5:9)

For Reconciliation (vs 9-10)

- God in all His fullness through Jesus was sacrificed to reconcile us (Col 1:19-20)
- We are reconciled through the death of Jesus (Rom 5:9-11)
- Jesus became the vehicle of peace so as to destroy the barrier between us and God (Eph 2:14-16)

IN CHRIST THROUGH PROMISES (1:11-14)

For an Inheritance (vs 11-12)

- Inheritance through the promise of blamelessness (Ps 37:18)
- Inheritance through the promise of commitment to God (Acts 20:32)
- Inheritance through the promise made to Abraham (Gal 3:17-19)
- Inheritance through the promise of faithful service (Col 3:23-24)
- Inheritance through the promise of the resurrection of Jesus (1 Pet 1:3-4)

For a Guarantee (vs 13-14)

- Guarantee through the promise of the testimony of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:16)
- Guarantee through the promise of ownership (2 Cor 1:21-22)
- Guarantee through the promise of the indwelling Holy Spirit (2 Cor 5:5)
- Guarantee through the promise of God's power to hold us in His hands (John 10:27-30)