

OUR REALITY IN CHRIST

Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesians 1:3-4 (NKJV)

³ 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, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Ephesians 1:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

Ephesians 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

Ephesians 1:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

Ephesians 1:11-12 (NKJV)

¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Greek: "oikonomia"

in Eph. 1:10 and 3:9, it is used of the arrangement or administration by God, by which in "the fullness of the times" (or seasons) God will sum up all things in the heavens and on earth in Christ.

(Vine's Expository Dictionary)

Greek: "oikonomia"

oikonomia is "the management of a household or of household affairs" (*oikos*, "a house," *nomos*, "a law"); the management or administration of the property of others, and so "a stewardship."

(Vine's Expository Dictionary)

Greek: "oikonomia"

and *nemein*, which is best translated as "management and dispensation."

Moreover, the ancient philosophers had a distinct view of what constituted such an end—**specifically, acting as a philosopher or as an active participant in the life of the city-state.**

(Dotan Leshem)

Greek: "*ekklesia*"

In Greek context, the *ekklesia* is primarily a political phenomenon. The Greek political usage of the word predates the biblical usage in both the Septuagint and the New Testament. The *ekklesia*, as one of the key bodies of the Athenian democracy, operated as **legislature, judiciary, and executive.**

Greek: "ekklesia"

It is clear upon examining the *ekklesia* within the Greek framework, that the purpose of the *ekklesia* is also impacted. The purpose of the *ekklesia* as the assembly of God is twofold: to act as an establishment of God's kingdom on earth, and to act in regard to the common good, compelled by love.

(Young-Ho Park quoted by Tara Caudle)

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1. GOD IS OUR SOURCE
2. CHRIST IS OUR SUSTANENCE
3. HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR SEAL
4. OUR INHERITANCE IS IN THE SAINTS

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REALITY OUTSIDE OF CHRIST

1. OUR SOURCE IS EVER-CHANGING
2. OUR SUSTANENCE IS INSUFFICIENT
3. WE FEEL INSECURE
4. WE DEVALUE OTHERS

• **CHALLENGE**

• **INVITATION**