

## Songs

### **Come Thou Fount**

[Watch Video Here](#)

Theme: Aspiration & Blessing

#### **Verse 1**

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing  
Call for songs of loudest praise  
Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it  
Mount of Thy redeeming love

#### **Verse 2**

Here I raise my Ebenezer  
Here there by Thy great help I've come  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure  
Safely to arrive at home  
Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wandering from the fold of God  
He, to rescue me from danger  
Interposed His precious blood

#### **Verse 3**

Oh, that day when freed from sinning  
I shall see Thy lovely face  
Clothed then in the blood washed linen  
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry  
Take my ransomed soul away  
Send Thine angels now to carry  
Me to realms of endless day

#### **Verse 4**

Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be  
Let that goodness like a fetter  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above

## Sermon Notes

### **God's Master Plan for Salvation – Ephesians 1:3-14**

**Opening Illustration:** Watching the local and national news announce various plans to handle the COVID-19 Pandemic. The plans change daily as the virus continues to spread. I am learning to listen to news from the coasts (East and West) to anticipate adjustments coming our way. We too were forced to make adjustments at PBC regarding how to meet, where to meet, when to meet, and how long to remain in this adjusted pattern.

This morning, I want to encourage you with how you can find stability in the midst of an unstable world. The answer is to meditate on the Gospel!

Today, I want you to consider three truths about God's plan for salvation to encourage your unsettled heart.

- **God uses a variety of people to build His church.**
- **God wants you to remain clear about the mission of the church (making disciples) and confident in the message of the church (the Gospel).**
- **God wants you to be thoughtful in your praise as a church.**

Please take your bible and turn with me to the book of Ephesians. Let me take you on a brief review of our study in the book of Acts to prepare us for a look at the book of Ephesians.

## **I. God uses a variety of people to build His church.**

### **Matthew 16:18**

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

- Remember, the church is not a building, a budget, or a business.
- The church consists of born again, baptized believers and spirit-filled leaders who are united around the Gospel and clear about the mission of making disciples of the nations.

### *The Background of the book of Ephesians*

- A. Apollos started the church.** (Acts 18:24-26a)
  - Priscilla and Aquilla provided necessary discipleship to Apollos in Acts 18:24-28.
- B. Paul taught the church.** (Ephesians 1:3 & 3:1; Acts 19:1-10)
  - Paul taught the truth in person. (for approximately 3 years...3 months [vs.8] + 2 years [vs. 10] + content of the remaining verses in chapter 19)
  - Paul taught the church through written form.
- C. Timothy shepherded the church.** (I Timothy 1:2-3 & 2 Timothy 1:2)
  - Timothy shepherded the church for approximately 1 ½ years.
  - Timothy combated false teaching and false teachers.
- D. John confronted the church.** (Revelation 2:1-7)
  - Commended them for doctrinal faithfulness.
  - Confronted them for their loss of spiritual zeal ("left your first love...")

### **I Corinthians 3:6-8**

<sup>6</sup>I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. <sup>7</sup>So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup>He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor.

## **II. God wants His followers to know the mission (make disciples of the nations) and trust the message (the power of the Gospel).**

### *The Introduction to the Believers in Ephesus (vv. 1-2):*

- A. Be clear about the mission (1a)**
  - Sent by God "an apostle of Christ Jesus"
  - Submitted to God "by the will of God"
- B. Be confident in the message (1b-2)**
  - **The Gospel saves you.** "to the saints who are in Ephesus"

- **The Gospel empowers you.** “and are faithful in Christ Jesus”
  - i. The believers in Ephesus were made holy (“saints”) **because of the indwelling presence of Jesus.** (“in Christ Jesus” or “in him”: found 9 times in Ephesians 1:1-14)
- **The Gospel connects you.** “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”
  - i. They were made spiritually wealthy **based on their connected to the family of God.**
    1. Direct access to the resources of one who belongs to the family (“grace and peace”)
    2. Connected to the family of God (“From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”)

### III. God wants us to be thoughtful in your praise as a church.

#### BLESSED BE THE GOD AND THE FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST...

(Pillar NT Commentary) After his greeting Paul usually begins his letters with an introductory thanksgiving which focusses on God’s work in the lives of his readers (Rom. 1:8; I Cor. 1:4; Phil. 1:3; Col. 1:3). Here in Ephesians, however, the opening paragraph is **an outburst of praise** to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (cf. 2 Cor. 1:3-4; I Pet. 1:3-5) in typical Old Testament and Jewish style of an extended eulogy or berakah (“Blessed be God, who has...”).

**Ideas come tumbling out** as Paul refers to election (v. 4), adoption (v. 5), God’s will (v. 5), his grace (v. 6), redemption (v. 7), wisdom (v. 8), the mystery (v. 9), and the consummation of all things (v. 10), before mention is made of Christ as the one in whom Jewish and Gentile believers (‘we’ and ‘you’) are incorporated (vv. 11-14). The eulogy extends from v. 3 to v. 14. But the introductory thanksgiving has not been replaced by the eulogy (1:3-14); instead, it follows the berakah in vv. 15-16.

The berakah (“Blessed be God, who has...”) is usually connected to a time in which an individual responded joyfully to God’s deliverance or provision (Gen. 14:20 [Abram’s prayer of praise for his deliverance from the kings who took his nephew Lot captive]; 24:27 [The prayer of praise for God’s provision: the servant of Abraham who went to a well and met Rebekah, the daughter of Laban]. The prayer of praise for God’s direction: berakah is also used at the conclusion to the books of the Psalter (Ps. 41:13; 72:19-20, etc).

#### WHO HAS BLESSED US IN CHRIST WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES...

Ephesians 1:3 (BKC): Paul’s use of the past tense participle “has blessed” points to this blessing or prospering of believers as having occurred in eternity past. With what are believers blessed? With every spiritual blessing (in the Gr., this phrase precedes the words “in the heavenly realms”). “Every spiritual blessing” (eulogia) refers to every spiritual enrichment needed for the spiritual life. Since these benefits have already been bestowed on believers, they should not ask for them but rather appropriate them by faith. Similarly Joshua was not to ask for land since God had already promised it to him (Josh. 1:3–4). But he was to enter into the enjoyment of that provision.

#### A. Understand the structure of the doxology (vv. 3-14)

1. Verses 3-14 is one long sentence (202 words) marked by an accumulation of relative clauses and phrases whose relation to one another is often difficult to determine.

- Paul frequently presents his thoughts in long sentences throughout the book (1:3-14, 15-23; 2:1-7; 3:1-13, 14-19; 4:1-7, 11-16; 6:14-20).
- In the Greek language, chapter one of Ephesians is technically only three sentences long (the content required to classify a paragraph).
  - We will study chapter 1 in three sections (Eph. 1:1-2; 3-14; & 15-23) in an effort to communicate the message the Apostle Paul intended for his audience to receive.
- English translations divide Ephesians 1:3-14 into 5 separate sentences. These divisions reveal interpretive conclusion.
  - For example, what does the phrase “in love” modify? English translations place “in love” at the end of verse 4 but after a period (thus starting a new sentence).
  - Is “in love” connected to one who is holy and blameless (4) or to the motivation behind God’s predestination (5)?
- It is considered by some scholars to be the most cumbersome sentence in the Greek language.

Scholar E. Norden: “the most monstrous sentence conglomeration that I have ever found in the Greek language...”

- It is considered by other scholars to be one of the most complete explanation of salvation found in one sentence.

C. Mason: “one is struck by the fulness of its words, of its liturgical majesty and its perceptible rhythm from beginning to end!”

- Although there have been many efforts to determine the form and structure of the paragraph, no general agreement has been reached. (upwards to 18 offerings 😊)

In his book, Hymnic Elements in Ephesians, J.T. Sanders’ verdict: “every attempt to provide a strophic structure for Eph 1:3-14 has failed...”

2. Paul begins his letter with a doxology about God’s master plan of salvation as administrated through the Trinity.
  - This one long sentence in the Greek present three natural divisions:
    - Verse 3-6: “to the praise of his glorious grace” (vs. 6)
    - Verses 7-12: “to the praise of his glory” (vs. 12)
    - Verses 13-14: “to the praise of his glory” (vs. 14)

## **B. Meditate on the rich theology in the doxology (3-14)**

### **1. God’s plan involves each member of the Trinity.**

- a. God the Father chose us in eternity past. (3-6) [cf. verse 4]
- b. God the Son redeemed us in the present. (7-12) [cf. verse 7]
- c. God the Spirit seals us for the future. (13-14) [cf. verse 13]

**Illustration of the Trinity:** the triangle

2. **God’s plan includes intentionality.**

Illustration: We try to model intentionality at PBC! We call this doing things on purpose. Everything from the order of service, giving, community groups, a plurality of leaders, and identifying the discipleship process of COME. GROW. CONNECT. GO.

**a. God has the church in mind.**

- (1. He chose us. (4)
- (2. He adopted us. (5)
- (3. He redeemed us. (7a)
- (4. He forgave us. (7b)
- (5. He bequeathed us. (11)

**b. God has Himself in mind.**

- (1. He chose and adopted us for the purpose of His will (4-5) and the praise of His glorious grace (6)
- (2. He redeemed and forgave us according to the riches of his grace (7) and according to the purpose of His will (11).

**Illustration:** Karate Kid – “Wax on. Wax off.” Mr. Miyagi and Daniel LaRusso

Just like Daniel LaRusso didn’t understand why Mr. Miyagi was having him sand and paint his rather extensive deck or wax his large array of cars, we fail to comprehend how God’s plan will really “work all things according to the good of those who love God and to those who are the called according to His purposes.” (Rom. 8:28)

**3. God’s plan reveals a great mystery.**

- a. The mystery of election (and its accompaniment, foreordination to adoption) [vv. 3-6]
- b. The mystery of redemption (implying forgiveness and grace overflowing in the form of all wisdom and insight) [vv. 7-12]
- c. The mystery of certification (“sealing) as sons and heirs. [13-14]

**Illustration:** Staring at a 3D picture until the picture comes into focus.

**More to come on the great mysteries of the Gospel revealed next Sunday!**

- **We look for answers regarding who, what, when, and why God elects, Jesus forgives, and the Holy Spirit seals us.**

## **Application:**

- God’s master plan for salvation is not Plan B, C, or D.
- God has one plan that has never changed nor will ever change.

### **1. God uses a variety of people to build His church**

- **What part are you play in building up PBC (specifically) or the church (generally) during the COVID-19 Pandemic?**

- Start a blog or vlog.
- Begin by praying for the members in your community group.
  - Ask God to provide wisdom to the families dealing with the sudden loss of income.
  - Ask God to help you and others not give into fear but to have power, love, and a sound mind.

## 2. God wants you to be clear about the mission of the church (making disciples) and confident in the message of the church (the Gospel).

- How do you plan to continue to make disciples during this period of required social distancing? (continue to participate with your community groups using Zoom; utilize Skype, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, or Microsoft Teams)
- Use the extra time that you have at home to study God’s Word (using [www.rightnowmedia.org](http://www.rightnowmedia.org), [www.Biblegateway.com](http://www.Biblegateway.com), [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com), [www.biblicalspirituality.org](http://www.biblicalspirituality.org))
- Volunteer to help people in need by emailing [admin@pbcpowdersville.org](mailto:admin@pbcpowdersville.org).

## 3. God wants us to be thoughtful in our praise as a church.

- When was the last time you broke out in spontaneous praise?
- Take some time to meditate on concepts presented in Ephesians 1:3-14 this week.
  - Underline the phrases “in Christ” or “in Him.”
  - Highlight the phrase: “for the praise of his glory (6, 12, & 14)
  - Define the following theological terms: chosen (4), predestined (5 & 10), adoption (5), redemption (7), forgiveness (7), fullness of time (10) and sealed (13).
  - Determine whether or not the phrase “in love” belongs with verse 4 or 5.
- Write down a prayer of praise in response from your time of meditation.

## Songs

### The Power of the Cross

[Watch Video Here](#)

Theme: Love & Sacrifice

#### Verse 1

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day  
 Christ on the road to Calvary  
 Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then  
 Nailed to a cross of wood

#### Chorus

This the power of the cross  
 Christ became sin for us  
 Took the blame, bore the wrath  
 We stand forgiven at the cross!

#### Verse 2

Oh, to see the pain written on Your face  
 Bearing the awesome weight of sin  
 Every bitter thought, every evil deed  
 Crowning Your blood-stained brow

#### Verse 3

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath

Quakes as its Maker bows His head  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life  
“Finished!” the victory cry!

#### **Verse 4**

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds  
For through Your suffering I am free  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live  
Won through Your selfless love!

#### **Chorus 2**

This the power of the cross  
Son of God, slain for us  
Took the blame, bore the wrath  
We stand forgiven at the cross!

## **I Stand Amazed**

[Watch Video Here](#)

Theme: Love & Redemption

#### **Verse 1**

I stand amazed in the presence  
Of Jesus the Nazarene,  
And wonder how He could love me,  
A sinner, condemned, unclean.

#### **Chorus**

How marvelous! How wonderful!  
And my song shall ever be;  
How marvelous! How wonderful!  
Is my Savior's love for me!

#### **Verse 2**

For me it was in the garden  
He prayed, “Not My will, but Thine.”  
He had no tears for His own griefs,  
But sweat drops of blood for mine.

#### **Verse 3**

He took my sins and my sorrows,  
He made them His very own.  
He bore the burden to Calv'ry,  
And suffered and died alone.

## **He Will Hold Me Fast**

[Watch Video Here](#)

Theme: Assurance & Strength

#### **Verse 1**

When I fear my faith will fail  
Christ will hold me fast  
When the tempter would prevail  
He will hold me fast  
I could never keep my hold  
Through life's fearful path  
For my love is often cold  
He must hold me fast

#### **Chorus**

He will hold me fast  
He will hold me fast  
For my Savior loves me so  
He will hold me fast

**Verse 2**

Those He saves are His delight  
Christ will hold me fast  
Precious in his holy sight  
He will hold me fast  
He'll not let my soul be lost  
His promises shall last  
Bought by Him at such a cost  
He will hold me fast

**Verse 3**

For my life He bled and died  
Christ will hold me fast  
Justice has been satisfied  
He will hold me fast  
Raised with Him to endless life  
He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight  
When He comes at last