

*The Disciples in Christ Meeting in Journey*  
*Gary Allen Henecke DD*  
*March 2018*

*Ephesians 1:1-10*

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are also faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace<sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us. For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fulness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (RSV)*

1. *Paul, by the will of God, Christ Jesus' apostle*
2. The eternal truth:
  - a. Notice first - who it is that is the primary mover:
    - i. God has blessed us
    - ii. The blessing is found in Christ
      1. All (every) blessing from God is in Jesus Christ
      2. He is/was/will always be God's central truth for us - about his-self (Godself)
  - b. He chose - God determines - God's eternal will - before creation
    1. The word for "world" is Cosmos - all creation - the universe
    2. God chose that every blessing and all the heavenlies offer are in Jesus
      - a. In him is "all and in all"
      - b. In him is the complete fulness
3. God's act is the consequence of his internal determination
  - a. Scriptures witness to God revealing his Godself in Jesus
    - i. This is for us who are "in Christ Jesus" - God's design
      1. God love - God creates
      2. God covenants - God reveals

- a. God provides - God accomplishes
- ii. This “in Christ” was the divine design and creative goal
  - 1. To this goal God brings all his “will” - determination
  - 2. God chose this - “elected.” He chose us in Christ - before creating
  - 3. This is “according to the purpose of his will”
  - 4. Through God’s great grace
- b. Bestowed in us “in the Beloved” - “in his Beloved”
  - i. Graciously to us “in Christ”
    - 1. In him we have our redemption
      - a. Jesus is the revealing God - the revelation as man - the new creation - the salvation
      - b. God himself, as Christ, is our savior and our life
    - 2. All “riches of grace” and forgiveness of our wrongdoing is in Christ
  - ii. According to God’s plan for the climax of time
    - 1. Christ will be all
    - 2. Only that which is “in him” is permanent - he is the goal of creation
    - 3. This is true for the visible and the invisible - the seen and the unseen

**even Cristw/ | \**

In II Corinthians 5:17 Paul writes “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation - creature.” The phrase “in Christ” appears so often in the Scripture that it could be said to be at the center of New Testament faith. The apostles not only write about “in Christ” they also use phrases like “in Jesus,” “in the Lord,” “in the Lord Jesus,” “in him,” and “in whom.” The phrase “in the spirit” appears 19 times in Paul but he also adds “the Lord is the Spirit” (II Corinthians 3:17). Dr. Moffatt, when translating his New Testament, said “The Spirit means for Paul, not ecstasy and transports but a life in Christ, and identification and incorporation of one’s self into Jesus.” The concept of union with Christ in one form or another will appear over 300 times in the New Testament.

Colossians 1:28 Him we proclaim, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man in Christ.