

Donelson Men in Table Talk - March 2018
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Ephesians 1:1-10

Paul, by the will of God, Christ Jesus' apostle:

To God's holy ones who are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing. He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us 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 Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Salvation:

1. All that is begins in the decisive will and purpose of God
2. All of God's act and doing is in Christ Jesus
3. All of our destiny is in Christ Jesus
4. Holiness is living to his glory

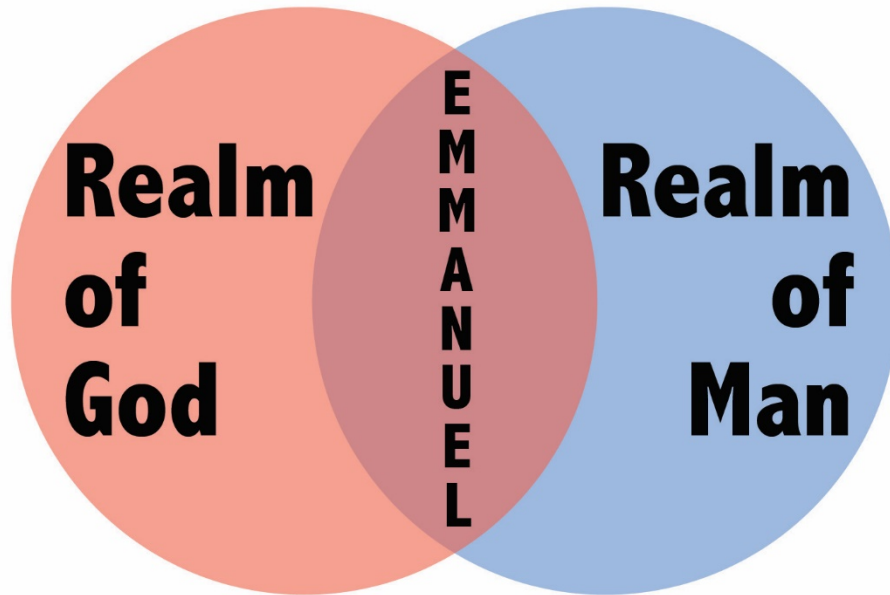
For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. (2:14-16 NRS)

5. "the purpose of his will" - God's mystery - the Divine design
6. He destined us to be "sons" - in Christ - sons of God
7. God in his self-disclosure gave us knowledge of him, and his very self for us and to us in Christ. All division between God and man is gone. In Christ we now have New Covenant/New Creation.

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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 We proclaim him by instructing and teaching each person with all wisdom so that we may present all complete in Christ