

Christ, God's new beginning

Ephesians 1:3-10

Vv. 4-8. God had a plan from the beginning to redeem. This plan began with the covenant he made with the people he formed, Israel. The plan came to fruition in the establishing of a new covenant through Jesus Christ (Lk. 22:13-20), the Word made flesh who through his death brought God's redemption to all who believe in him (Jn. 1:12-13). This redemption involves God graciously choosing us and includes forgiveness of sins, adoption into God's family and the gift of the Holy Spirit, God's abiding presence.

Reflection/Response: What blessings do we receive through the Holy Spirit? (vv. 13-14). What does it mean to live 'to the praise of his glory'? (vv. 6, 12-14). Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

John 1 The One who comes to bring new life with God

A. This One is the Divine Word.

- i. The 'Word' is distinguished from God – '*... the Word was with God*'.
- ii. However the 'Word' is also so united with God that he can be described as 'God' – '*the Word was God*'.
- iii. Augustine wrote, 'man was added to Him, God not lost to Him'. John affirms the full Divinity and the true humanity of the Word made flesh.

B. This One gave the right to those who believe in him to become children of God.

- i. '**gives**' - it is a gift from God the Word (Jesus Christ) to those who believe/trust.
- ii. '**right**' - The Word gives the authority for believers to have a changed status and become God's children (Jn. 5:24 passing from death to life).
- iii. '**children**' – while all are created by God and He is the Father of all, not all are children of God. The Word **gives** the **right** to people to become God's **children**, this implies an adoption, or new birth (v. 13). **This enables those who believe in him to join God's family.**

Reflection/Response. How do we celebrate being called, forgiven and our membership of God's family made available by the death of Christ for us? Pray that God will strengthen your belief/trust in him. Read Heb. 9:14, 15, 28 and use to form a prayer of thanks. BB