

Fitting Praise to Each Person of the Triune God:

Why, How Such an Anthem of Praise to God?

Ephesians 1.3-14 (Part 1)

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By:

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READ EPHESIANS 1:3-14

“In the Greek text, Ephesians 1.3-14 is a single long sentence of 202 words (242 ESV) which one frequently quoted scholar (Eduard Norden) considers to be the most monstrous sentence conglomeration that he has ever found in the Greek language” ~ Harold Hoehner

INTRODUCTION:

Story of Samantha’s 1st bike ride down Bradford El hill...

1. Fitting Praise to Each Person of the Triune God
2. What lies behind such Praise?

1. Fitting Praise to Each Person of the Triune God:

Why, How Such An Anthem of Praise To God?

Great humbling brings great praise. A great “breaking down” before a great “building up”. A great fear before a great relief. In God’s way, a death comes before life!

I want us to notice the height of this anthem of Praise to the Triune God!
I want us to notice the why? The how of such an anthem of Praise can come?

Here in Ephesians 1:3-14 we have high praise and exultation in God for His matchless and boundless mercy and love. These are huge statements of truth and life. Here, the soul is moved to marvel at the glories of the grace of God in Jesus. Here, God is showing He is God and He “will have mercy on whom He will have mercy and He will have compassion on whom He will have compassion.” God is God here in the massive, complete and eternal saving of His people! Here is the grace of God that is - AMAZING!...in every way, shape and form!

But in order to have an awareness, a consciousness, a renewed appreciation of this magnitude of grace, we must understand that the depths of unmerited, undeserved and unsought favor – this Divine grace - come for a reason and in a context...in other words, the grace of God does not just sprinkle down from heaven. There is a context, a plot, a play that takes place as God brings such heights of rejoicing, a ulogy, an anthem of exuberant praise to Himself for “His marvelous deed to the children of men” (Ps 107)

Here is a eulogy:

This is a eulogy of the most beautiful kind!

Eulogy: Tribute, Acclamation, accolade, adulation, applause, appreciation, approval, big hand, bravo, celebration, cheer, citation, commendation, compliment, exaltation, glorification, laud, tribute,

Let's look close:

Certainly this eulogy shows development for one sees that the refrain "to the praise of His glory" (6,12,14) is given after discussing each Person of the Trinity, in the order of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Praise To The Father

(3) 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, (4) even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love (5) he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, (6) **to the praise of his glorious grace**, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Praise to The Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ

(7) **In him** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, (8) which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight (9) making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth **in Christ** (10) as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things **in him**, things in heaven and things on earth. (11) **In him** we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, (12) so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be **to the praise of his glory**.

Praise To The Holy Spirit

(13) In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit**, (14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, **to the praise of his glory**.

This is praise to God for the mighty working of His plan, might and purpose:

It has been rightly stated that there really are only two religions: the religion of human accomplishment and the religion of Divine accomplishment. Does the(Bible) preacher emphasize the former or the latter? A reliable carrier of God's truth always highlights the fact that God saves sinners; sinners don't save themselves.

~Tullian Tjvidijan

This passage of sacred text elevates our understanding of God as God!

The heaviest obligation lying upon the Christian Church (HCC) today is to purify and elevate her concept of God until it is once more worthy of Him - and of her.

~ A.W. Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy

But what makes this grace so amazing? Sadly, for many Christians, the grace of God is reduced from “amazing”...to “so-so”! No, no one will say the grace of God is “so-so”...but don’t we easily speak and live like it is...taking God’s grace for granted all too often with our silence speaking louder than our words.

2. What lies behind such Praise?

I want us to notice the why? The how of such an anthem of Praise.

From what background does this kind of exultation arise? What’s the context?

Remember samantha’s journey down the hill. What came before her rejoicing?

Let’s be reminded of why we need such a rescue from and by God:

Just listen:

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

(Genesis 1:26-27)

Genesis 2:15-17 NIV The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (16) And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; (17) but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Genesis 3:6-8 NIV When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. (7) Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. (8) Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 4:8-10 NIV Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. (9) Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" (10) The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.

Genesis 6:5-8 NIV The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. (6) The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. (7) So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them."

Exodus 20:3-17 NIV "You shall have no other gods before me. (4) "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. (5) You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, (6) but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. (7) "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. (8) "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. (9) Six days you shall labor and do all your work, (10) but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. (11) For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (12) "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. (13) "You shall not murder. (14) "You shall not commit adultery. (15) "You shall not steal. (16) "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. (17) "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Exodus 32:7-10 NIV Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. (8) They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.' (9) "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. (10) Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. "

Exodus 32:19 NIV When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain.

Job 42:5-6 NIV My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. (6) Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

Isaiah 1:2-4 Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: "I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. (3) The ox knows his master, the donkey his owner's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand." (4) Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evildoers,

children given to corruption! They have forsaken the LORD; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him.

Isaiah 6:1-5 NIV In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. (2) Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. (3) And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." (4) At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. (5) "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

Jeremiah 2:12-13 Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the LORD. (13) "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9)

Matthew 15:18-19 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' (19) For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

Romans 1:18-32 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, (19) since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. (20) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. (21) For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. (22) Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools (23) and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. (24) Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. (25) They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. (26) Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. (27) In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. (28) Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. (29) They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, (30) slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil;

they disobey their parents; (31) they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. (32) Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Romans 3:10-18 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; (11) there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. (12) All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." (13) "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." (14) "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." (15) "Their feet are swift to shed blood; (16) ruin and misery mark their ways, (17) and the way of peace they do not know." (18) "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

And right here in Ephesians, Paul gives the context for rejoicing in this great salvation:

Ephesians 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, (2) in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. (3) All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

CONCLUSION:

From this, the Christian is rescued!

Can you see why such high praise?

Hear the lesson of Rodrigo Mendoza, 18th century slave trader of the Guarini tribe of South America.

He killed his brother over a struggle for the love of a woman.

Burdened with guilt and hardness of heart, he seeks to save himself by his own efforts...to no avail...til one staggering event that changed everything:

Luke 7:47-48 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." (48) Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

Forgiveness by the death of Jesus!

New life, by the resurrection of Jesus!

Let's come back to celebrate the grace of God in Jesus and our 15 years together tonight.

AMEN!