

Embrace
Holy
Living

RE- FLECTING GOD

06/08/13 - Predestined to Praise

RG AUDIO 060813

Ephesians 1:1-10

Ephesians 1:3-14 is a hymn-like expression of prayer and praise to God for His blessings. The object of praise is the Triune God (1:3). Its occasion is the celebration of "redemption" (1:7, 14) by its grateful recipients?"us" and "our." The words "before the creation of the world" (1:4) remind us that redemption was no afterthought. The plan was "predestined" (1:5, 11).

Biblical predestination is not about God's arbitrary choice of some people to be saved and others to be lost. It is, instead, a reminder of God's gracious plan to unify "all things . . . under Christ" (1:10). Through the death of His beloved Son, God would adopt believers as His children through "the forgiveness of sins" (1:7). He would send "the promised Holy Spirit" (1:13) to make us "holy and blameless in his sight" (1:4).

But the ultimate purpose of God's plan was to create a people who lived to "the praise of his glory" (1:12, 14; see 1:6). God was not seeking redeemed people to flatter His fragile ego. Our redeemed lives may be a spontaneous expression of gratitude to God.

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