

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Ephesians 1:11-12

Safe As God's Own Possession

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God's "Lot" by God's Purpose for the Praise of God's Glory

Ephesians 1:11, 12 (NET)

In Christ we too have been claimed as God's own possession, since we were predestined according to the one purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, would be to the praise of his glory.

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Appointed As God's Lot

Ephesians 1:11a (NET)

In Christ we too have been claimed as **God's own possession**

- "We" means Jewish and Gentile Christians
- To apportion by lot is an OT concept
- We were assigned by God as His own "lot"
- This idea goes back to Deut. 32:8, 9 where the nations are contrasted with Israel

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God Intentionally Chose His Lot

Ephesians 1:11b (NET)

since we were **predestined** according to the one **purpose** of him who **accomplishes** all things according to the **counsel of his will**

- Paul piles up terms that show God's plan
- This all stresses God's sovereignty
- This means that believers are safe in God's eternal purpose and not under fate
- Similar terminology is in Rom. 8:28-30

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Terms About God's Sovereignty

- **Predestined** = *prooristhizo*_
- **Purpose** = *prothesis*
- **Accomplishes** = *energeo*_
- **Counsel** = *boule*_
- **Will** = *thele*_ma

The scope of God's plan
"all things" = *ta panta*

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To the Praise of His Glory

Ephesians 1:12 (NET)

so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, would be **to the praise of his glory**

- God works out His purpose to bring glory to Himself by saving a people
- We exist as a people to praise His glory
- This refers to the people addressed in Ephesians: Jewish and Gentile Christians

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Implications and Applications

- God's sovereignty over all implies His personal care and protection for His own, not fatalism
- Our hope in Christ is due to God saving and cleansing a people to bring glory to His holy name
- We exist to praise God's glory and should declare His mighty deeds

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God's Purpose Is Beneficent

2 Timothy 1:9 (LEB)

who saved us and called us with a holy calling, **not according to our works** but according to his own purpose and **grace that was given** to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

- "Called" here is the effectual call
- His "purpose and grace" is antithetical to "works" (see Ephesians 2:9)
- Grace is a gift from all eternity

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God's Purpose Is Publicly Revealed

2 Timothy 1:10 (LEB)

but **has now been disclosed** by the **appearing** of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought to light life and immortality through the gospel,

- "disclosed" is literally "manifested"
- "appearing" is *epiphaneai* "epiphany"
- God's purpose is both good and revealed, not fatalistic or secret like pagan religions

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God Acts to Glorify His Name

1Peter 1:7 (ESV)

so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in **praise and glory and honor** at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- God will sanctify His own people according to His promises
- God works in our lives with the outcome being praiseworthy (Ephesians 5:27)

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God Saves Repentant Sinners

Psalm 106:2, 43, 44, 47 (LEB)

Who can utter **the mighty deeds of Yahweh**, or proclaim all his praise?; Many times he delivered them, but they rebelled in their counsel, and were brought low by their iniquity. **Yet he looked upon their distress when he heard their cry; Save us, O Yahweh our God**, and gather us from the nations, **so that we may give thanks to your holy name and boast in your praise.**

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We Must Praise God's Glory

Psalm 96:3-5 (ESV)

Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, **his marvelous works** among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. **For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols**, but the Lord made the heavens.

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