

Missions & Community Outreach Festival; *Sermon: The Glory Centered Mission* by **Robert Krumrey**, lead pastor, MERCYhouse, Amherst, MA; *October 20, 2019*

Bible text explored: Ephesians 1:3–14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In 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, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In 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, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. [ESV]

Review and application:

When considering local outreach—in a church that uses the slogan “proclaiming the gospel” and is known for expository preaching—enhanced congregational involvement will flow from a growing grasp of the glory of the gospel.

1. From what realm (v. 3) has the Father’s blessing issued, and when (v. 4) was it determined?
Why is spiritual blessing more essential than physical blessing?
2. Rev. Krumrey acknowledged that calling Jesus divine is offensive in our culture. But how, throughout this prayer, is God’s glory centered in him . . .
 - . . . through the word Christ (the *Messiah*)?
 - . . . through the term “the Beloved” (v. 6, *Matt 3:17*)?
 - . . . through the repetition of “in him” phrases?What (v. 7) is the scope of what we received “in him”?
What (v. 11) added gift “in him” is highlighted?
3. How (vv. 4-5) have we become blameless, and heirs to all the promises God has made to his people?
4. What “mystery” (or formerly hidden truth, v. 9) is revealed (v. 10) as God’s cosmic plan?
In a world where things often do not “add up,” how will everything be brought into a meaningful relationship under the headship of Christ?
Why will this kind of union involve relinquishing our right to self-determination?
5. To whom (vv. 12-13) was Paul by implication referring when he said “we”?
And who did he have in mind in the “you also”?
6. Rev. Krumrey likened being “to the praise of his glory” (vv. 12 & 14) to exclaiming “Wow!” when viewing a burst of fireworks.
How could I contribute to this divine plan “as big as the universe”?
If I don’t feel equipped, how could I get that way?