

God's Redemptive Plan
Ephesians 1:8-14

I. In Christ – A Gracious Provision - 1:7-10

1. Redemption through His blood - 7
Sacrifice of Christ fully paid the penalty of our sin
Both O.T. & N.T. believers –
Rom. 3:24-25; Heb. 9:13-15
We therefore have complete forgiveness of all sin
We do not merit this, it is all of His grace
2. Wisdom & discernment to choose His will - 8, 9
In Christ we can now understand God's work in us
We can now see the wisdom of living in His will
3. Reconciliation, restoration of unity in Christ - 10
Redemptive work of Christ removes sin & the curse
Allows for God to dwell in unity with His creation

II. Reconciliation of all in Christ – 1:8-10

1. Fall of humans brought separation
Separation from God – Genesis 3:8
Humans separated into people groups – Gen. 11
2. God's plan must restore all that is broken
Humans must be reconciled to God
Humans must be reconciled to one another
3. God set apart a group for Himself – Gen. 12
Call of Abraham and his descendants
For a seed line to bring Messiah
A people to whom God could reveal His Word
A people to be His witness to the other nations
4. God's plan was to reconcile all in Christ – 8-10
Jews and Gentiles all by faith in Jesus
This "mystery" was revealed to Paul
Word "mystery" means a recently revealed truth
This truth will continue in Ephesians 2 and 3
Eph. 2:11-22 – Jews & Gentiles one people of God
Eph. 3:1-6 – Jews & Gentiles "fellow-heirs", "one body"
Also found in Romans 9-11 and Galatians 3
Rom. 9-11 – "one olive tree", Gentiles grafted in
Gal. 3:29 – In Christ Gentiles are "Abraham's seed"
O.T. and N.T. believers are linked in Christ
God's special people set apart unto Him

III. A Guaranteed Inheritance – 1:11-14

1. God's purpose to be fulfilled in us - 11-13
In Christ we have obtained an inheritance – 11
This has been predetermined by God
What He planned He will accomplish through Christ - 11
God works all things according to the counsel of His will

God's will is for humans to fellowship with Him – 12-13

- Jews ("we") who first responded will glorify Him – 12
Gentiles ("you") are also included in Christ, to His glory - 13
2. Holy Spirit is God's guarantee for us – 13-14
He is God's seal of a completed transaction
Earnest (down payment) on what God promised
The promised inheritance is guaranteed – 1 Peter 1:4
His glory is at stake He will fulfill His commitment