

“A Perfumed Love Letter!”**1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Today marks 28 years from Kelly & mine 1st date! 😊
 - 1.1.1. I let her know right away that I had my eye on her **for a long while**; I was attracted to her **even before she knew it!**
 - 1.1.1.1. God says the same to us, in this letter!
- 1.2. It's amazing some things parents have communicated to their children.
 - 1.2.1. “You **weren't planned**, you were an **accident**. You were a **mistake!**”
 - 1.2.2. “You **aren't worth** your weight in salt! You'll **never amount** to anything!”
 - 1.2.3. “When you're 18 **you're out of here!**”
 - 1.2.4. Often it's communicated, “*You were not planned; You're not worth anything; I'm through with you.*”
- 1.3. What does **God** communicate to us in this 1st section of Eph?
 - 1.3.1. “**You were planned** from the beginning; **You were purchased** at an expensive price; **You will be with Me** forever!”
 - 1.3.2. And, each person of the **Trinity** was involved in these **truths**, in these **family secrets**.
 - 1.3.3. I can't fix your **past**, *if your parents uttered some of these things*, **but** I can point you to our **present truth & our future Hope!**
- 1.4. **Outline: Planned by the Father; Purchased by the Son; & Preserved by the Spirit.**
 - 1.4.1. Natural outline...check out “*to the praise of His glory*” in vs. 6,12,14.
- 1.5. **Paul's Background w/Ephesus:**
 - 1.5.1. On Paul's 2nd missionary journey he visited Ephesus & left Aquila & Priscilla behind. He returned 2 years later & ministered for 3 years. Years later while under house arrest in Rome he writes this letter to the believers in Eph. {Other 3 prison epistles? *Philippines; Col; Philemon*}
 - 1.5.2. It was famous for its temple to Diana(7th Wonder); Ephesus emerged as the religious center of all Asia; They had a stadium that held 50,000 spectators, where the riot regarding Paul & his friends broke out; Extraordinary miracles took place there(handkerchief, apron, etc.).
 - 1.5.3. Acts 19:11 “**Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, & the diseases left them & the evil spirits went out of them.**”
- 1.6. **Q:** What to lift your head above the smoke & dust of your struggles?
- 1.7. **Q:** Need a New Vision of your purpose? (Then you've come to the right book)

- 1.8. Paul reminds us we are **rich beyond measure**...yet living like **beggars**.
- 1.8.1. **Why?** Because were ignorant of our wealth!
- 1.8.2. Ch.1-3 = **Understanding our “spiritual wealth”** (see 1:3) [heavenly bank account]
- 1.8.3. Ch.4-6 = **Understanding our “spiritual walk”**[rooted in our sp. wealth](see 4:1)

2. **A PERFUMED LOVE LETTER! (1-14)**

- 2.1. **PLANNED BY THE FATHER!** (1-6)
- 2.2. **His Blessings on us!** (3)
- 2.3. Vs.3-14 form a single sentence in the Greek text.
- 2.4. Writers of the **O.T.** used Father only 14 x's, & that in ref. to the nation not indiv.
- 2.4.1. When Jesus came He addressed God Only as **“Father”**(> 60 x's); **“God”** only once(quoting Ps.22).
- 2.4.2. J.I.Packer said, **“Father is the Christian name for God!”**
- 2.5. **Blessed, blessed, blessing** – “to speak well of”.
- 2.5.1. When we speak it to God is an acknowledgment of His goodness.
- 2.6. **Every spiritual blessing** – The great Scottish Bible expositor Alexander MacLaren once wrote: **“We may have as much of God as we will. Christ puts the key of the treasure-chamber into our hand, and bids us take all that we want. If a man is admitted into the bullion vault of a bank and told to help himself, and comes out with one cent, whose fault is it that he is poor?”**
- 2.7. **In the heavenly places** – because that's where spiritual blessings are found (as opposed to earth).
- 2.8. **In Him** - God found **in Christ** the all-sufficient merits for redeeming men w/o violating His righteousness! [in Christ 35 x's]
- 2.9. **His Selection of us!** (4)
- 2.9.1. **When?** – **“before the foundation of the world”**
- 2.9.1.1. Man doesn't save himself, for **“salvation is of the Lord”**(Jonah 2:9)
- 2.9.2. **Why?** – **“That we should be holy & w/o blame before him in love.”**
- 2.10. (4) **“He chose us”(Election)” & “Predestined”(destine beforehand)**
- 2.10.1. The doctrine of Election is a **Divine Revelation** not **human speculation!**
- 2.10.1.1. It was not dreamed up by Augustine, Luther, or Calvin, nor by Paul himself. It is revelation from God however mysterious it is!¹
- 2.10.2. Jn.15:16 **“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain,”**
- 2.10.3. **Q: Why is he sharing this?** - **“This is a bedrock of confidence for the believer!”**

¹ Kent Hughes; Ephesians

- 2.10.4. **Q: What was this based on? his good pleasure & will(5b).**
 2.10.4.1. This is the only Explanation!!! (we leave it there)
 2.10.4.2. There is a reason why He elects the chosen, but this reason is found **in God & not in them!**
 2.10.4.3. **Of course you'd agree He wasn't obliged to save any...So the greater question is why did He save One???**
- 2.10.5. Election simply states, "Believers, Salvation wasn't an after thought!"
 2.10.6. **One false charge against the doc. Of Election is, "If we are chosen, then we can do what we like!"** (Nothing further from the truth!...**Read on...**vs.4b)
- 2.11. (4b) **The Purpose of Election...Sanctification!**
 2.11.1. **Election promotes & demands Holiness!!!**
 2.11.1.1. Holiness is the telltale evidence of being elected.
 2.11.2. **If God has elected us, He has not elected us to remain sinners but to become holy!**
 2.11.2.1. J.C. never saves us **IN** our sins, He saves us **FROM** our sins!
 2.11.2.2. "Doctor", *says the fool*, "make me well...but I'd like to keep the fever!" (Spurg)
- 2.12. (5) **Adoption** – is a family concept.
 2.12.1. **Adoption involves the placing of a family member into the **privileges & blessings** of adulthood.²**
 2.12.2. The adopted person had **all the rights** of a legitimate son in his **new family**, & completely lost all rights in his **old family**.
 2.12.3. **In the eyes of the law he was a new person!**
 2.12.4. Even all debts & obligations from his previous family were abolished.
- 2.13. (6) **To the praise of His glory**(vs. 6,12,14) – God saves sinners **not to solve their problems** but to **bring glory to Himself!**
- 2.14. **He made us accepted** – made us = "favored us". (see Lk.1:28)
 2.14.1. God has generously **favored us** by giving **many provisions** of His **grace**.
- 2.15. **PURCHASED BY THE SON!** (7-12)
 2.16. **What He did!** (7-10)
 2.16.1. He **redeemed** us (7,8)
 2.16.1.1. The ultimate **concern & plan** of God is **Redemption**.
 2.16.1.2. The idea is related to such themes as "**Liberation, deliverance, & ransom**".
 2.16.1.3. Involved in this is "**forgiveness**" – which means "to send forth, send away". (i.e. the removal of one's sins)
 2.16.2. He will **gather** us (9,10)

² Shepherd's Notes; pg.16

- 2.17. **Mystery** - all the details weren't given in the O.T. on Redemption!
- 2.17.1. **Christ seen as:** the woman's seed; the Passover lamb; the atoning sac.; the Bronze serpent; the promised Prophet; the unseen captain; the deliverer; the kinsman; etc.
- 2.17.2. The N.T. is a quantum leap in the **redemptive picture**... "**Behold the lamb**" (very clear!).
- 2.17.2.1. Jn.4:25,26 "The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" who is called Christ. "When He comes, He will tell us all things. Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."
- 2.18. **Gather together in one** – 1 word in Greek. "*The process of gathering something together to present as a whole*"
- 2.18.1. Only here & in Rom.13:9 where Paul summed up the commandments into 1 rule; "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*"
- 2.19. **Why He did it!** (11,12)
- 2.19.1. So we'd **praise** Him! (12)
- 2.20. **PRESERVED BY THE SPIRIT!** (13,14)
- 2.21. **What He does!** (13)
- 2.21.1. He becomes a **special seal** on our heart.
- 2.22. **Sealed** - Used only few times in the N.T. [It was an **indelible mark**, representing a promise]
- 2.22.1. **Lose your salvation?** - **No!** The seal, that is **sealed on our soul**, is an indelible mark that reads... "**child of God!**"
- 2.22.2. My guarantee is **on Him**(God)...not me! - "When you seal a package, **The Seal** guarantees the **product inside!**"
- 2.22.3. So it not only indicates **ownership**, but also guarantees **correctness of the contents**.
- 2.23. **Why He does it!** (14)
- 2.23.1. His presence **guarantees** our eternal security.
- 2.23.2. It's as if God dropped a million dollars into our account & says, "*Though you can't spend it now...you can enjoy **the interest!***"
- 2.24. **Well** believers, what is the **beginnings** of our **every spiritual blessings?**
- 2.24.1. **Chosen**(4); **adopted**(5); **Graciously favored**(6); **Redeemed**(7); **Forgiven**(7); **His revealed will to us**(9); **Made us an inheritance**(11); **Sealed**(13); **Gave the H.S. as a deposit**(14).

When a timid old lady, during the great depression, approached the first desk she saw in an insurance office in Minneapolis, she was asked what she wanted. With trembling hand, she took from her well-worn purse an old policy and explained regretfully that she was unable to meet the current premium. She explained that it was hard for her to get work and what little she did get was hardly enough to clothe, feed her and keep a roof over her head.

After quick investigation, the clerk recognized that the policy was very valuable. He warned the old lady that she was making an unwise move to stop payment. Did not her husband have anything to say? It was his policy made out to her benefit, he explained. “My husband? Oh, he has been dead for 3 years,” she remarked sadly.

Immediately the company officials went into action. They soon discovered that she was indeed telling the truth. What she didn't understand was that the policy was her husband's and that **she was the beneficiary at his death**. They were thus obligated to refund the overpaid premiums plus the full amount for which the husband had insured his life in her favor. The money was **sufficient** to keep her in comfort the rest of her life.

Listen: The greatest life insurance policy of all time became due when Jesus Christ died on the cross! Thousands of people continue trying to **make payments on their own salvation** while all they need to do is **accept the immeasurable gift** that is theirs through the death and resurrection of our Savior.

To become the beneficiary of God's Life Insurance Policy, we need simply to acknowledge our need as sinners **and** thank Him for the gift of His only begotten Son who died on the Cross and rose again that we might have God's forgiveness.