



**Empowering People to Change the World**

**Born for War  
Living Above It All**

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**Stand if you would like to join The Road family...**

**Road Declaration...**

## **Born for War**

**“Living Above It All”**

### **Introduction:**

- You and I are born for war. Ephesians is a War Manual.
- Temporally we live here on earth, but spiritually we live in the heavenly places.
- We have been elevated to a new position, new authority, and new gifts because of what Christ had done for us at the cross.
- This is a dramatic, introductory prelude to a song-like set of verses that extend to verse 14 - a kind of doxology.
- From verses 3-14, he talks about all that God has given us, our position, and our standing with Him! Then he tells us from verse 15 why he has written it...

### **Verse 1**

- We have two realms, two addresses, we live in: “in Christ” and “in Ephesus.”
- We live “in Christ,” and that is settled; and we live “in Colorado Springs,” and that is the tough part!

- “In Christ” is used 27 times in Ephesians and 10 times in just the first 13 verses! This is how we experience all of these blessings...by being “in Christ.”

## Verse 2

- Remember the order...grace experience, grace encounter→then peace!
- Grace, “charis,” must come first in our lives! Peace means to “bring together” two parts. Until you are bonded with Christ, you have no peace!
- We think of “the Lord Jesus Christ” like “Smokey the Bear,” but it’s not.
  - The “Lord” is Who He is, *Kurias*, a title; not just Savior, but Lord Sovereign over all, KING.
  - “Jesus” is His Name; Joshua, *Yeshua*, friend.
  - “Christ” is His mission; Messiah, *Yeshua Misiak*, the One prophesied, born of a virgin, this is the One!
  - He is King Jesus, on a mission!

## Verse 3 “Blessed”

- “Blessed” - this is different than the Sermon on the Mount (Blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are those who mourn, etc.). That meaning is “happy or fulfilled.”
- “Eulogy” comes from this word, which means “to speak well of,” “to praise.”

- What an auspicious statement! Every spiritual blessing! This song is about our position in Christ.
- Under the Old Covenant, God's promised blessings were largely material blessings, often equated with land. Fruitful wombs, flourishing crops, and prosperity were the blessings of obedience.
- The New Covenant is one of "spiritual blessings" in Christ.
  - He is going to talk about: predestination; election; redemption; sovereignty; holiness, adoption; and hope.
  - Spiritual weapons for spiritual warfare to tear down spiritual strongholds.
- That is why we praise and worship Him! That is why you are blessed!
- Again, "in Christ" is used 27 times in Ephesians and 10 times in just the first 13 verses! This is how we experience all of these blessings...by being "in Christ."
  - In Christ, by Christ, through Christ, if we obey Him.
- Now remember that our experience on earth will never measure up to our position in the heavenlies.
  - You have been chosen to be justified, sanctified, and glorified.
  - We stand before the God "Who calls that are not as though they were." This is our position "in Christ."
  - **He sees us complete. But our experience is "working out our own salvation with fear and trembling."**

- **“God, Who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.”**

## **Our Position in Christ**

### **Verse 4**

- “We are chosen” - aorist tense, “once and for all.”
- Ex. I remember explaining this concept to each of our children through the years. I say, “You are a “Holt” and that will never change. No matter what you do; whether you leave our home or get married, you will always be my son/daughter!”
- God has chosen us out from this world for Himself! As a treasure for Himself. He has elected you to Himself.
- If we are too much of an Arminian, we rob God of His sovereignty and glory, and we make it all our responsibility.

### **A partnership: There is God’s part and our part.**

- Paul puts them together here: “He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world (God at work), that we should be holy and without blame (man’s decisions, our responsibility).”
- Both are in Scripture: God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibility.
- Ex. Trying to reconcile the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man is like trying to reconcile a triangle into a circle; it cannot be worked out. But then He showed it from above, and it looked like a cone sitting on a fat end. By adding one dimension, it can be either a cone or a triangle. So, from God’s angle, from His vantage point, He enjoys greater

dimension. Both are true to Him. We lack dimension; and we will never, on earth, completely reconcile the two.

- God looks at our lives...He has chosen you and me. He did it once and for all to bring us to Himself.
- He is not going to change His mind! "I got a lemon?" No...before the foundation of the world!

## Verse 5

- This means that He has a destiny on your lives! There is a destiny, a future, a plan for your life!
- "Predestined" *prohorizo*...He has "pro" before; "horizo" boundaries. He has marked out our horizons.
  - Election and adoption - His calling on each individual.
  - Predestination is the destiny of our lives; the boundaries He has marked out for us.
  - In chapter 2, he will tell us of the "good works" that are pre-ordained for us to walk in.
  - In Romans, he speaks of these predetermined works that we are to do.
  - God doesn't just adopt us, but adopts, elects us to Himself, for the purpose of being holy and a "good pleasure" of His will.

## 1Peter 1:2

**“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.”**

- The Creator of the universe has chosen you to be “adopted as sons and daughters.”
- Imagine that! Adopted into the family of God:
  - Adopted into a family where forgiveness and grace is the air you breathe. How about that?
  - Look at some of the families you have come out of. For some of you, your families were places of anger, addiction, and abuse.
  - But you have now been adopted into a family where God is the Father. His is a family of forgiveness, love, and acceptance.
  - But even more than that. This also refers to the day when a son had come to the point of maturity and was taken by the father and presented as the heir of the inheritance that would be his later.
  - One day we will stand with Christ and will receive the inheritance. This is why you were created!
  - Why were you created? To serve Him? To glorify Him? All of this is true.
  - Ex. I have seven children...I did not have any of them to serve me or glorify me...but I want my kids to bring pleasure to God by finding who they are and enjoying it.

- I think God has kids so that they will be “good pleasure” to Him. He wants us to be happy!
- The Bible describes the relationship with God as being like a Father and child, and also like a “bride and groom.” We don’t marry so that the other will serve us or glorify us! “Oh, honey, am I glad you are home from work!” But you get married out of love and intimacy, to take a life partner!
- “By Jesus Christ” - Jesus did it all at the cross. Jesus had to come, and Jesus had to die for our sins. He came to bring peace between us and God. Due to our sins, we were separated.
- **Romans 3:23-24**  
**“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” NKJV**
- It was all “according to the good pleasure of His will.” This is how God gets pleasure! He takes broken, wounded people and He adopts them into His family. He is the “Cosmic Adoption Agency.” He loves you that much!
- Before the world was begun, He adopted, He elected you! He sees us as holy. He looks at us in love.

## Verse 6

- This literally means “graced with grace.”
- In other words, we have been chosen, predestined, and adopted to be a “praise of the glory of His grace.”



- Our lives should be a miracle. In other words, decisions we make and the lives we live should reflect God's supernatural grace.
- Grace: "to be in favor with."
- You have been "given favor by God with more favor, so that your life will be a praise of His favor."
- Don't you want to walk in God's favor? At home, at work? This is what God desires for you!
- In verses 7-14, he speaks of the work of Christ, ending with "to the praise of His glory."
- God is receiving glory through all of this!

### **Verse 7**

- A definite article is used, "the redemption."
- This was a marketplace word for the redeeming of a slave - purchasing a slave for the express purpose of setting him free.
- The Blood of Jesus has set us free from our slavery.

### **Verses 8-9**

- So, look at the riches we have in Christ: election (chosen by Him for Him), adoption, predestination, redemption, revelation of His will...all of this "according to His good pleasure."
- He has made known to us the mystery of His will?

- We know that God created us “man and woman, in the image of God, to have dominion.”
- Scientists are trying to figure it out! They are still trying to figure out “the missing link” in evolution!
- The Congress hasn’t even figured it out yet—they don’t know there are two genders! These poor congressmen are so confused.
- But we know the mystery! We can just look at Genesis.
- We know that Christ is coming back! He will recreate the earth!
- We can see beyond this present world. We know the mystery!
- Do you know it? Do you know Christ? If you don’t, you are confused...come to Jesus today!