

Protest of Praise

Ephesians 1:1-14

“I want to look at what we have, what the church is right now, and ask, Do you think that maybe this is exactly what God intended when he created the church? Maybe the church as we have it provides the very conditions and proper company congenial for growing up in Christ, for becoming mature, for arriving at the measure of the stature of Christ. Maybe God knows what he is doing, giving us church, this church.”

—Eugene Peterson, *Practice Resurrection*, pp.14

Resources for Ephesians:

Paul *for* EVERYONE

The Prison Letters

N. T. Wright



Ephesians, Philippians,
Colossians and Philemon

from the author of *The Message*

EUGENE H. PETERSON



PRACTICE
RESURRECTION

a conversation on growing up in Christ

“Blessed be
God...”

- First
- “... because...”
- ~~Adoration~~
- Declaration
- Protest



Ephesians 1:3–14 (NRSV, modified)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, [because] he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us.

With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance,
having been destined according to the purpose of
him who accomplishes all things according to his
counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set
our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his
glory.

In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the [deposit] of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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