

**Reflections on Ephesians 1:3-14 Zoom Church January 3, 2021
by Owen McCooey**

Early in my working career, there was a woman in the office next to mine who I admired very much. She had an infectious enthusiasm for a wide variety of interests. On one of her office walls she posted sayings and quotes, pictures and photos, and articles and stories. There was always something interesting to look at, to read and to talk about. After almost fifty years, there was one story I still remember. It was short. It was about a Navaho weaver who sat down at her loom without a preconceived design in mind for the rug she was about to weave. The design only became apparent when she finished and stepped back to examine it.

What appeals to me about this story is how it is like a metaphor for life. Part of me weaves my design through life, but there is also another capital W Weaver as well, guiding and shaping the design.

Over roughly a forty year period, until 2007, I was a nominal Catholic at best. Church attendance was at Christmas and Easter or with my mother when I went home to visit her. However, I had a daily spiritual practice of scripture reading as well as reading books on spiritual subjects.

My scriptural reading and spiritual outlook on life was coloured by the filter of my Catholic background. The emphasis I had grown up with was underpinned by a sense of sin, guilt, unworthiness, and fear. God was judgemental and His love was conditional.

This way of thinking took a change twenty or so years ago. My step-brother lent me a tape by Father Richard Rohr. Father Rohr spoke about one of Paul's epistles. His take on the epistle was an eye opener to me. I found myself agreeing with what he had to say. It made sense. It was deeply comforting.

What stood out for me was the fact I did not have to earn God's love. God's love was unconditional.

When I stand back to reflect on the rug I am weaving, I can point to that part of the design where my step-brother and Richard Rohr influenced the design. But behind them I suspect they were being guided by the other Weaver.

St. John of the Cross wrote: “*God is like a rich mine with many pockets containing treasures; however deep we dig we will never find their end or their limit*”. This is how I feel about the passage from Ephesians read today. It is so rich. Here are some statements that speak to me:

- Through God’s good pleasure we are His adopted children through Jesus Christ.
- His glorious grace is freely bestowed upon us.
- And also the riches of His grace are lavished on us.
- In Christ we have gained an inheritance.

This abundance of love pours forth from God’s heart through Christ. It is something I am barely able to comprehend let alone understand.

The weaving of my life continues. It does not stop. The patterns and colours are evolving. There is so much more of God’s treasure to be mined.