

July 11, 2021

Ephesians 1:1-14

Children's message: This morning St. Paul tells us that God has had a plan for us. A plan of salvation for you and I. To save us from our sins. God has revealed parts of this plan to us over time. Only as much of the plan that we can understand. The plan was revealed to us through Jesus's ministry here on earth. This plan is not just a big cosmic plan, but it is also a very detailed one. It is customized for each and everyone of us. So that it is personal. God having a plan has been a good thing for you and I.

When I think more about this, I think it is a good idea to have a plan for our lives also. What is it that we want to do with our lives? How could we best use the talents and gifts that God has given me? More importantly do I have a plan, B, C, or D? Just in case plan A falls short. Have I even thought of a plan? Or am I letting the plan unfold naturally.

When you have a plan there is some peace of mind. Mostly that you have thought about it, set a goal, have focus and direction. With enough determination and effort you can carry out your plan. This process does not only work for your career choice. It works for just about most things that are important to you.

You thought about the plan and have an intended result. The important point is that you thought about it. That is a good start. God thought about you and I when He put His plan together. He sent

prophets and preachers to tell the people about His plan. Some listened and others did not. Then He sent Jesus to share the plan with us. The second part of the plan will happen when Jesus returns. For you and I, God's plan continues to unfold moment by moment in our daily lives. We are part of His continuing plan. We are very special to Him as His children. God thought about what would be best for us, made a plan and carried it out. Mostly Jesus carried it out. You and I should take comfort that God cares and thinks about us daily. In order for His plan to continue daily to unfold. To be revealed to us and in us. God's plan was for us and we are a part of it daily.

Adult's message: The letter to the Ephesians was most likely written in Rome. The epistle to the Ephesians and Romans has a lot in common and share similar themes. This epistle claims to be written by Paul who was inspired by the Holy Spirit. Some scholars have questioned the authorship of this epistle. Yet if Paul dictated this epistle while in prison then there would certainly be differences in content and style. This would explain away the scholars doubts.

The theme of this epistle is the mystery of salvation expressed through the church. As I said to the kids, the plan. That the plan or the mystery is for all of humanity and creation. This idea is going to effect the present age and the ones yet to come. God's plan of salvation was revealed to all in the death and resurrection of His son Jesus the Christ.

Humanity experiences God's plan of salvation through the life of Jesus Christ. The mystery talked about in verse 9 is the plan revealed. It is the gospels, the Kingdom of God, and the church . The mystery centers on Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:2, " That their hearts may be encouraged,

being knit together in love and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ.” Everything from the incarnation to the resurrection points us to God’s plan of salvation for us.

The plan was announced to us by the prophets who spoke to humanity on God’s behalf. Eventually God revealed the plan through Jesus and it was made known to us by the apostles. 1 Cor 1-7, “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory.” The mystery continues to be revealed to us in unfolding ways. The mystery that Jews and Christians will compose one body called the church. We experience the mysteries personally in the church through baptism, confirmation and Eucharist. God’s plan of salvation works on so many levels. The most important level is our own personal one. Where God touches us personally. The Creator of the Universe includes us personally in His plan of salvation. We are participants in God’s divine cosmic plan of salvation.

Jesus reveals to us what is in the plan. The Lord’s Prayer is the blueprint. To build the Kingdom here on earth as it is in Heaven. We are to be the hands and feet of God here on earth. We carry the plan out by loving our neighbor as ourselves and loving God with everything that is inside of us. Sometimes we get misled in the execution of this part of the plan. Have faith because God has placed a lot of trust in us. He would not have done so if He thought we couldn’t carry it out. The Holy Spirit is amongst us to help us along and to guide us. Take comfort in that. God bless you all, Pastor D