



SERIES: Ephesians
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Wednesday, January 6, 2021
Scripture: Ephesians 1:9-11
TITLE: God is In Control

“It all works out in the end.” Have you heard that? I have. And I usually brush it off. “Yeah, right. Sure it will.” At least, that’s my usual response. But did you know, that is what the Bible teaches? Well, pretty much.

Listen to Paul’s words in Ephesians 1:9-11:

“God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. ¹⁰ And this is the plan: At the right time, he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. ¹¹ Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.” ¹

Wow. Paul begins by saying, “God has revealed his mysterious will.” What does that mean? Paul is referring to His plan of Salvation that is offered to everyone - Jew and Gentile. We would say, to the religious person and the atheist. He offers free Salvation to the rich and the poor – the black and the white - and every shade in between.

Because of this gift of Salvation, for those who choose to receive it, we become Christ’s inheritance, and we receive an immeasurable inheritance from God. This is an “already - not yet” inheritance. There are elements that are being experienced now, but the fullness of it won’t be experienced until the future age. But what God has promised, He will deliver.

But then, in verse 11, Paul says, “He,” that is God, “makes everything work out according to His plan.” That’s the difference between what people say: “It all works out in the end.” For who? For God, but as His children and heirs, we see the benefit.

I love what William Hendriksen said about this:

“Neither fate nor human merit determines our destiny. The benevolent purpose—that we should be holy and faultless, sons of God, destined to glorify Him forever—is fixed, being part of a larger, universe-embracing plan.” (Hendriksen, W., & Kistemaker, S. J. *New Testament Commentary Set, 12 Volumes*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House)

God made the plan, and He has the power to execute His plan.

¹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Eph 1:9–11). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

Today, your world may be spinning out of control, and you feel angry because of it. Remember, God is in control. He has the power to control the world, the situations, and your circumstances. You may feel discouraged, because you can't leave your house due to COVID. You're discouraged, because you can't find a job. You're afraid, because you don't know how you're going to pay your bills next month. Know this, God is aware of your situation. God truly cares. And *nothing* is out of his sight, or out of His power to change!

My challenge for you is this: Remember God has a plan, and it will come through. Your circumstances are part of that plan. His plan is perfect, even when we are not. Today, set a reminder on your phone that at certain times, you are reminded "God is working out His plan. Don't worry."

When you know the end from the beginning, it makes the journey more enjoyable.