

HAEBEA Home Worship: No.72

11th July 2021 – Mr John Ellis

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, we praise you
that you show us how to use power wisely.
Help us, as we worship,
to learn more of your ways,
to understand that our actions have consequences,
and to seek your wisdom in making decisions
that may impact on others.
This we ask in Jesus' name.
Amen.

thankful
grateful
blessed

Reading - Ephesians 1. 3-14

Reflection

Our reading today are words of real encouragement. As we read that we are receiving spiritual blessings and that God has a plan. Verse 11 of our reading tells us “all things are done according to God’s plan and decision.

When things aren’t going right, when we see so many problems in front of us, these words from our reading provide us with hope. We do not have to go it alone, we can turn to God in prayer, allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our lives and to help to show us the way.

Let’s think about a computer. It is amazing what a modern computer can achieve. Word processing, calculating, designing and storing information are but a few examples. None of these capabilities are available if the computer isn’t plugged into the electricity. Like your computer, you must be plugged into Christ. Like your toaster, you must be connected to Christ. You must be united into Christ. Unless, you are connected and united to Christ, you will miss out on knowing him in your life.

Finally, this passage can also be seen as a prayer.

“Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 1:3a)

“Let us praise God for his glorious grace” (Ephesians 1:6a)

“Let us ... praise God’s glory.” (Ephesians 1:12)

“Let us praise his glory.” (Ephesians 1:14b) (Good News)

Intercession Prayer

Loving God, as we try to make sense of the world:
with the news full of unhappiness;
where poverty mars so many lives;
where being famous seems to be the biggest virtue;
where hatred is given space to thrive –

In standing against whatever is oppressive, dehumanising or just wrong,
help us to find your purpose and live in it.

Loving God, as we grapple with understanding some of the mystery that is you:
in the times we're sure about everything;
when we're full of questions and there don't seem to be answers;
when we're quietly convinced that, despite the struggle, you are love and
you are our God;
when we get a sudden flash of revelation –
in whatever is certain,
doubtful or paradoxical,
help us to find your purpose and live in it.
Amen.

Hymn – God is working his purpose out

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cr3goa3DXsw>

- 1 God is working this purpose out,
as year succeeds to year;
God is working this purpose out,
and the time is drawing near;
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be:
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.
2. From utmost east to utmost west,
where human feet have trod,
by the mouth of many messengers
goes forth the voice of God:
“Give ear to me, ye continents,
ye isles, give ear to me,
that the earth may be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.”
- 3 Let us go forth in the strength of God,
with the banner of Christ unfurled,
that the light of the glorious gospel of truth
may shine throughout the world.
Let us all fight with sorrow and sin
to set the captives free,
that the earth may be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.
- 4 All we can do is nothing worth
unless God blesses the deed.
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide
till God gives life to the seed.
Yet nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled
with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

Closing prayer

As we move on from this service, we know we don't go alone;
you are with us, before us, behind us, above and below us.
We ask that in whatever comes our way, today and in the week,
you will give us the resources we need to take care of ourselves, to respond to others,
to go gently through the world and to live in your purposes.
Amen.