This is how we fit into God's picture: Christ is the measure of our portion, we are in him, invented and defined in him. God's blueprint intention is on exhibition in us. Everything he accomplishes is inspired by the energy and intent of his affection (Eph. 1:11).

In the amazing, infinite, vast scope of the purpose of God, He chose to not only make known to us the secret of His grace toward us who believe BUT TO ALSO MAKE US HIS OWN INHERITANCE! And Christ is the measure or REALITY in that we are INVENTED AND DEFINED in Him! Measure in the dictionary is "any standard of comparison, estimation or judgment." It also means "to estimate the relative amount, value, etc., of, by comparison with some standard." OUR VALUE IS DETERMINED BY HIS VALUE. I.e. we can all say that God the Father holds Jesus in the highest value there is. THE FACT THAT GOD GAVE UP HIS SON FOR US REVEALS THE VALUE HE HOLDS US IN TO HIM! The fact that Jesus was willing to become a man, forever changing his form, and died for us reveals the value He holds us in. The fact that the Holy Spirit was also eagerly in agreement with this audacious plan and desires to live in us also reveals the value He holds us in. TO NOT SEE YOUR VALUE IS TO BE BLINDED. God has made US His inheritance and God is not into cheap, low quality inheritances. God marked this all out beforehand! In the NKJV, it says that all of this was according to His will. REMEMBER THAT WILL MEANS "A DESIRE THAT SPRINGS FORTH FROM ONE'S EMOTIONS." That is why the MIRROR BIBLE says that EVERYTHING HE DOES IS INSPIRED BY THE ENERGY AND INTENT OF HIS AFFECTION. HE HAS DONE ALL OF THIS BECAUSE HE WANTED TO AND LOVES US. Here the emotional nature and motivation of God is governed by reason and deliberation. I.e. He isn't controlled by His emotions but they are His inspiration!

The enemy seeks to cause us to live below our IDENTITY. He did the same thing to Adam and Eve making them believe they were NOT already like God. He made it seem as if God was withholding good things from them. But this verse is clear that as believers WE ARE NOW GOD'S BLUEPRINT INTENTION ON DISPLAY FOR OTHERS TO SEE. But if we don't know what the blueprint looks like or are blinded to aspects of it, then we will not properly exhibit God's original design for mankind. A faulty blueprint throws the entire project into disruption and makes it useless. And if you are not sure what the blueprint is then the Bible is clear: WE ARE INVENTED AND DEFINED IN HIM. Christ is the blueprint and we are now the blueprint of Christ on display. Just as Jesus said that when you see Him, you see the Father, we should be able to say, "When you see me, you see Jesus."

It is our initial privilege (as Jews) to cherish the Messianic hope; our lives in Christ were destined to prophetically promote the celebration of his glorious plan with mankind. Now you (Gentiles) have also discovered yourselves to be EQUALLY INCLUDED IN HIM having witnessed the unveiled logic of God. What exciting news! Your salvation is publicly announced. Consistent with the promise of God, the HOLY SPIRIT GIVES GUARANTEE TO THE FACT OF YOUR FAITH, like the stamp of a signet ring, that certifies a document. You are in Him. The Holy Spirit is our tangible link to the inheritance that was ransomed and preserved for us. God's glorious plan for man is the theme of our celebration (Eph. 1:12-14).

In the NKJV, verse 12 says that "we who first trusted in Christ SHOULD BE to the praise of His glory." Paul is speaking of the Jews who held onto the promise of a Messiah before Christ's first coming. Their EXPECTATION of a Messiah created the conditions necessary for His advent. The phrase "should be" to English readers carries the idea of obligation for the Jew to live a life that will be praise to God's glory. But that is not what Paul is speaking of here. He is speaking of POSITION not EXPERIENCE. I.e. positionally, the Jew was to prophetically display God's glorious plan with MANKIND through the Messiah's coming. The Jew took their election as the possessors of the covenant and promises as something that excluded the rest of mankind and that THEY WERE THE OBJECT of Him. But the Jew was chosen because Abraham said "Yes." One of the main calls of the Jew was evangelism. OUR POSITION IS THE SAME: TO SHOW THE GOODNESS AND GLORY OF GOD IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST TO THOSE OUTSIDE THE COVENANT SO THEY TOO CAN BE BORN AGAIN. We need to beware of taking our position and identity in Christ to the extreme of excluding those outside. Paul made it plain that we are not forbidden to have dealings with those who are members of the world system or we would have to go out of the world altogether. The Jews made this mistake and took it even further by making it hard for even Jews to be accepted by the religious minority! WE SEE THIS TODAY IN CHRISTIANITY. **NEVER ROGET THAT YOUR IDENTITY IS TO BE ON DISPLAY SO THOSE OUTSIDE DESIRE WHAT YOU HAVE.**

The hidden COUNSEL and LOGIC of God is displayed in Christ Jesus. We who believed also received the PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

John 20:19-22 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace *be* with you."

²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

²² And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4-5 (NKJV)

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me;

⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 2:39 (NKJV)

³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Acts 5:32 (NKJV)

³² And we are His witnesses to these things, and *so* also *is* the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Acts 11:15-16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.

¹⁶ Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

Jesus promised the disciples the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Baptism means to be immersed. Jews longed for the days prophesied when they would be given a new heart and the ability to service God acceptably. They longed for the days when God's Spirit would be poured out. John the Baptist prophesied of this day and desired it himself. In fact, that was the sign he was looking for--the one on Whom the Holy Spirit came and stayed. In the OT the Holy Spirit would come upon someone for a specific timeframe or to accomplish something then lift. John the Baptist had a revelation of a time when the Holy Spirit would come and remain. He knew the Messiah would be the one facilitating this; therefore, when he was in jail, he began to doubt because he fully expected to be a recipient. He missed the part about being born again. Only those with the new nature could house the Holy Ghost. Obey in 5:32 means submit to authority. Only those born again can call Him Lord as those who are submitted to His authority. THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS SO IMPORTANT TO HAVE THAT JESUS COMMANDED THE DISCIPLES TO STAY IN JERUSALEM UNTIL HE CAME. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO WALK IN THE FULLNESS OF THE NEW IDENTITY WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Consistent with the promise of God, the HOLY SPIRIT GIVES GUARANTEE TO THE FACT OF YOUR FAITH, like the stamp of a signet ring, that certifies a document. You are in Him. The Holy Spirit is our tangible link to the inheritance that was ransomed and preserved for us. God's glorious plan for man is the theme of our celebration (Eph. 1:13-14).

The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of the fact we believe Christ. We are sealed with Him. In symbolism of Scripture, a seal signifies 1) a finished transaction; 2) ownership; and 3) security. Sealing items such as letters or produce being shipped was a sign of EVERYTHING IN ORDER AND THE LAST THING DONE PRIOR TO DELIVERY. Just as the Holy Spirit brought order to the chaos of the earth during creation week, so He brings order and seals us certifying everything is in order. HE IS OUR TANGIBLE LINK TO THE REALITIES OF HEAVEN AND OUR INHERITANCE. He is a "deposit" or "earnest payment" of the future reality of the resurrection of our bodies. It is a pledge of full payment. So we should be experiencing in our soul and even in our bodies the age to come. THIS IS ACCESSED AS WE REALIZE THE PROMISES OF GOD THAT ALLOW US TO SHARE IN HIS NATURE AS NEW CREATIONS. This glorious plan of God IS A REASON TO CELEBRATE!

ASSIGNMENT:

Do prophetic exercise of each student receiving prophecies from other students and record them. And give them following homework:

- 1. Circle each repetitive word or phrase.
- 2. Circle each descriptive word.
- 3. What is the theme?