

## **Reflection on Ephesians 1:3-14**

Theology Professor, Kenneth Berding wrote a devotional book – “How to Live an ‘In Christ’ Life”. The following is a little exercise he did while working the book which emphasizes our union with Christ. He decided to try to re-order the various clauses and phrases from Paul’s famous paragraph (Ephesians 1:3-14) with the goal of seeing more clearly Paul’s emphasis on our union with Christ.

*May our Lord Jesus Christ’s God and Father be blessed.*

*In Christ, God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.*

*Just as in Christ God chose us before the foundation of the world.*

*That in Christ we might be holy and blameless before God.*

*Through Jesus Christ, God lovingly predestined us for adoption to himself as sons.*

*In Christ the beloved, this was done according to the purpose of God’s will, to the praise of God’s glorious grace.*

*In Christ and through the blood of Christ, we have redemption, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of God’s grace which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.*

*In Christ, God made known the mystery of his will and set it forth according to his purpose as a plan for the fullness of time.*

*That in Christ all things might be united, things in heaven and things on earth.*

*In Christ we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of God who works all things according to the counsel of his will.*

*That in Christ, we who were the first to hope might be to the praise of God’s glory.*

*In Christ, when you believed in Christ, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of God’s glory.*