Theme: Trinity & worship – great theme just after Easter – tell you why later.

* Made to love: each other & God. Greatest command.
* Greatest command. Love, value, appreciate, adore, treasure - God: worship.
* Chief end of man: “glorify God and enjoy him forever”
* Need Bible.

Sing – “from the shifting shadows of the earth, we will lift our eyes to him” – deliberately fix eyes on Jesus. Pray.

**Sing: Come People of the Risen King**

**Read Ephesians 1:3-14**

3Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – 6to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

11In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of his glory.

Pull apart.

* How start working out a passage?
* Paragraph – not in orig – wrong.
* “Praise” – “Praise of his glory” x3
* Worship – encouragement to worship.
* 3’s interesting in the Bible – T – reformat – split up differently
* Why we worship: F-S-Sp – too much to do it all.
  + Gk: 1 sentence – 202 words – outpouring of joy & reasons & excitement.
  + Little more than list them. Sometimes the best way to preach an outpouring is with an outpouring – talk fast!

Why we worship the Father (v3-6)

**He Chose us** – Xn? Not by accident – not b/c you said yes to him – b/c he said yes to you. Might have felt that you “let him in”, but he was at work in you long before that – otherwise you’d never have wanted him anywhere near.

Chose – so?...

**Given us vast spiritual blessing** (v3) – new life – new start – hope in this life – and next – presence of HS – pray and F will listen – Communion – meet with Jesus – scriptures alive – voice of God. Heard about Jesus – cross – straightened you up – curved in.

**Made us Holy and blameless** (v4) – don’t feel it? But I did so and so – feel weighed down and guilty.

* **Heb 10:14** For by one sacrifice he has made perfect for ever those who are being made holy.
* One sacrifice – Jesus – made you perfect in God’s sight. Now he’s making you holy. He sees you as perfect and he’s still at work in you. Both –and. Feel guilty – come to Jesus – and accept his forgiveness that he promises – believe it – faith – let go of the guilt. Made you holy and blameless.
* Some of you feel guilt from ages ago – something done/said – mind goes back to it. Accept this word: come to Christ – chosen you to be holy and blameless in his sight.

**He adopted us as his children** (v5) – when you come to him in repentance & faith – not only forgives but son – daughter – child of the King! Adopts you into his family – might have had a rubbish family – new family – better: child of the King.

**He Loves us** (end v4) – did all this “in love” – out of love for us.

* No-one twists God’s arm – why does he love me? Don’t know – he just does – chosen me – why? Don’t know.
* Might not have been loved by many people in this life – let down many times, betrayed, forsaken – you might have been the one who let others down. This God – F – loves with an infinite and everlasting love. How can I say that?
* End v5 – same love as he has for his Son. Same! Freely given us all this “in” Jesus – because we’re in Jesus.
* Wonderful reasons to worship! Not done!

**Why we worship the Son (v7-12)**

Without pausing for breath, carries on:

**He redeemed us with his blood**.v7 Pregnant with meaning.

* OT: made bad decisions – debt – sold land. Brother or family member could come and pay the debt off for you – and it had to be given back. (Lev 25:25) Kinsman-redeemer.
* Or sold self into slavery Law (Lev 25:47ff) – family member could buy your freedom back.
* We – us – sin – made us slaves – bondage to it – did what we liked – felt it was freedom, but it actually ensnared us. We needed to be bought back – set free from our bondage. Only one who can do that for sin is Jesus.
* But it was a high price: his blood. In Jesus, we have redemption through his blood. His blood bought our freedom from sin.

**Forgave our sins** – everything – dealt with by Jesus on the cross – every sin, past, present, future – paid for. Sacrifice of Jesus was “once for all” sin. Once time for all sin (Heb 10:10)

**Channelled God’s grace to us** – “riches of God’s grace” - underserved favour –

* Talking to someone – don’t feel good enough – doesn’t feel right somehow – why would he do this – love me – forgive me?
* Grace! Looks at me and sees goodness, perfection, life of Jesus – holy, blameless. Grace – unmerited, underserved favour. – lavished. Don’t deserve it! Got that – baptised last Sunday!

**F is making Jesus the centre of everything** v10 when the times reach their fulfilment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ

* God’s plan for the universe is to make Jesus the centre of everything. There will come a time when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of the Father.
* Even now, it’s happening – not there yet, but it’s happening, even in this building.
  + Men and women are being brought together in Christ.
  + Rich & poor
  + Black & white
  + African and European and Asian
  + Educated and uneducated
  + Young & old
  + Middle class & working class & no class at all
  + Whitton & Whitehouse & Castle Hill
  + Stokies and Ipswichians & funny country folk
* Bringing all people together under the banner of Christ – why? Because God loves equality and unity and diversity. That’s who he is – and he will bring EVERYTHING together in Christ to be equal and united and gloriously different.

Nearly done – but there’s yet more!

**Why we worship the Spirit (v13-14)**

**Unites us to Jesus** – when – when you heard the message of truth – gospel. “Included in Christ” – united to Christ – Jesus. F loves you as he loves his own son. “This is my son, whom I love” – says that to you too.

**Marks us as belonging to God** – marked in Christ with a seal, the promised HS

* Ancient times – letter – seal – the contents of this is mine. What is in here belongs to me. HS comes in – seal – you belong to God – his.
* Or rather: he says “mine! This person belongs to me – my child, whom I love.” End v14 “God’s possession”.

All this:

**Father:** Chose us - Every spiritual blessing - Holy and blameless – Adopted us as children – Loved us

**Son:** redeemed us – forgave us – poured out grace – bringing all things together

**Sp:** United us to Jesus – marked us as belonging to God

* All of that is “In Jesus” – he is the exalted centrepiece – aim of this sentence all 202 words of it – bring glory to Jesus.
  + Jesus Christ – Him – He: 15 times
  + “In Christ” – “through Christ” – “under Christ”: 11 times
* Praise the glorious grace of the F – Jesus has brought it all to us
* Praise glory of the Sp – Jesus has brought him to us.

Now I realise that this is a sermon with 100% theology and no application whatsoever. This is the application – what you do with it: worship.

* Bow your heart and praise “praise him for his glorious grace” point of the passage – bow – prideful hearts refuse.
* Get over your awkwardness in singing – sing with all the tunefulness and volume you can muster
* Forget yourself and others around – pray
* If the Sp moves in your heart – weep
* If you want to kneel in the presence of God – you kneel.
* Calls you to repent over sin, sorry – repent
* Moves you to raise your hands in worship – forget everyone else – do it
* Shout hallelujah – do it.

To worship is to give him his worth – he is above all else – nothing else compares with him – greatest treasure – express our adoration for the Son of God who gave himself for us.

* Our highest activity as humans
* This is why this is a great theme for the week after Easter. This is what that was all about. Cross & resurrection - enables worship – access point to allow us to do what we’re made for – worship.
* Spend all eternity doing: worship.
* Worship: fixing our minds on Christ in such a way that he becomes utterly lovely to us – most magnificent hero, highest affection – deepest joy – greatest treasure.

Sing: Amazing love

Ephesians 1:17-19Say after me:

* Glorious Father
  + give me more of your Spirit – the Spirit of wisdom and revelation
  + so that I may know Jesus better
* Open my dark eyes and my dull heart
* so that I may know
  + the hope you have called me to
  + the riches of my glorious inheritance
  + and the incomparably great power which is available to me

Sing: I worship you, almighty God

* More of him? Invite you to come – drink deep of the well of life.
* First time: turn to him tonight – going own way – repent. Death on cross – all your sin – faith.
* More of him – go deeper – know him better? Pray for you at the end – use song as a prayer.

Sing: More love, more power