

Key words in Ephesians

Purpose; Counsel; Will: Greek *prothesis* — 1:9, 11; 3:11; Greek *boule* — 1:11; Greek *thelema* — 1:1, 5, 9, 11; 5:17; 6:6 — three key words, all related conceptually, appear in 1:11. One of these words (*thelema*) has been used by Paul twice before (1:1, 9). The word conveys the idea of desire, even a heart's desire, for the word primarily expresses emotion instead of volition. Thus God's will is not so much God's intention, as it is His heart's desire. The word *prothesis* denotes an intention or a plan; it literally means "a laying out beforehand," like a blueprint. This plan was created in GOD's counsel, a translation of the Greek word *boule*, which means the result of deliberate determination. But behind the plan and the counsel was not just a mastermind but a heart of love.

New Man: Greek *kainos anthropos* — 2:15; 4:24 — word for new does not mean something more recent in time, but something having a different quality or nature. Thus the new man is the new humanity created in CHrist, of which all believers partake, both individually and corporately. Since Paul has already spoken of the new man created in Christ in terms of a new, unified, corporate humanity (2:14, 15), the new man in this verse must also be thought of corporately (see Col 3:9-11). In the immediate context, Paul is exhorting each believer to put on his or her new human nature.