

Week 1: Ephesians 1:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Study Questions

1. According to Ephesians 1:3–10, what has God done (v. 4), what is He doing (v. 7), or what will He do (v. 10)?
2. According to 1:3-10, what do we “have”? What blessings has He blessed us with?
3. What does adoption mean when God is doing it?
4. Is understanding God as Father a difficult concept for you? Does it change your view of God in any way?
5. How would you define grace?
6. What “riches” has God lavished on us?
7. A “mystery” in the New Testament refers to something that was previously hidden but has now been revealed. According to verses 9 and 10, what is “the mystery” that has now been revealed?
8. We live in a culture that is fixated on the matter of personal identity. Why is the “in Christ” or “in Him” indicatives (3, 7, 9, 11, and 13) so important to a Christian’s understanding of his/her fundamental identity?
9. “Blessing” and “Praise” is a common refrain in these verses (3, 4, 12, and 13). If you began to see bringing Him praise as your purpose in life, would that change your life goals?
10. How are you bringing Him praise in your life today?

