



# REVEALED

The Mystery of Christ in Ephesians

**Ephesians 1: 1-14**

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

# LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO EPHESIANS

1. It is more a Regional Letter
2. It is Paul's most Positive Letter
3. It Reveals The Mystery of Christ

*This mystery has been kept in the dark for a long time, but now it's out in the open. God wanted everyone, not just Jews, to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out ... (MEMORY VERSE). The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you, so therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory. – Colossians 1:26-27 (MSG)*

## WHAT THE TRINITY DOES FOR US

### 1. God Blesses Us In Christ

*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. – Ephesians 1:3 (NRSV)*

### IN THE FATHER, BEFORE TIME...

### 2. God Chose Us For Holiness

*<sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love. – Ephesians 1:4 (NRSV)*

*John 15:16-17; Matthew 11:28; John 7:37; John 6:37; Philippians 2:15*

*May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, <sup>13</sup>so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. – 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (ESV)*

### 3. God Destined Us For Adoption

*He destined us for adoption as his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will – Ephesians 1:5 (NRSV)*

## 4. God Bestowed Us With Grace

*<sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. – Ephesians 1:6 (NRSV)*

*Luke 1:28; John 1:14, 16-18*

## IN THE SON, IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME...

## 5. God Lavished Us With Salvation

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us... – Ephesians 1:7-8 (NRSV)*

*1 Peter 1:18-19; Mark 10:45*

## 6. God Enlightened Us To Live The Larger Story

*With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan, for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. – Ephesians 1:8-10 (NRSV)*

*Colossians 1:15-22 (MSG)*

## IN THE SPIRIT, IN REAL TIME...

## 7. God Seals Us As His Holy Possession

*In Christ we have also been made a heritage, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation, and had believed in Him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. – Ephesians 1:11-14 (NRSV)*

*John 16:8-11 (MSG)*

### I Will Live The Mystery by...

- Memorizing **Colossians 1:27**
- Embracing God's larger story to define my own story.
- Delighting in what the Trinity has done for me.
- Becoming one of his adopted children through accepting Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

# WALK THE TALK

## A Growth Group Guide

1. Have you ever had a time when you were trying to concentrate on something, but you were preoccupied with another thought that was dominating your mind? What was it about that thought that kept you from focusing on the task at hand?
2. Why is it important to raise our sights to God's larger story/plan when we are occupied with our own story of just trying to make a living?
3. Of the seven points in the outline above, which one spoke to you the most? Which one was the most difficult to understand or believe?
4. Why is it so important to recognize that our salvation is largely a work of God with very little on our part (in other words, simply believing)? How will that understanding give us a more solid foundation to build our lives upon?
5. What do you think you specifically need to do this week to start "living out the mystery of Christ"?