

EPHESIANS

GIVING GLORY TO GOD THE FATHER

(EPHESIANS 1:3-5)

In Ephesians 1:3-14, we're looking at one of the most *heavy-duty* theological sections of the entire Bible *and* one of the most *happy* parts of all the Bible! It is heavy-duty because in this passage of Scripture, the Apostle Paul spotlights God's amazing **grace** by showing us the unique roles that God the *Father*, God the *Son*, and God the *Holy Spirit* each play in bringing salvation to you and to me. It is wonderfully happy because Paul passionately and joyfully gives our Triune God all kinds of astounding **glory** for providing that salvation to us. Today we'll limit our focus to **Ephesians 1:3-5** and to **God the Father**. Pray and then be prepared, as we dive into God's Word this morning, to have the Lord stretch your mind with the truth of His grace & swell your heart to the praise of *His glory*!

1. (v.3) Give the Father glory because He ...
2. (v.4) Give the Father glory because He ...
3. (v.5) Give the Father glory because He ...

THEOLOGICAL ISSUE: *The Sovereignty of God & the Free Will of People*
(How does the decision of God to choose us, work with our decision to choose Him?)

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

(v.3) God the Father blesses us, so ...

(v.4) God the Father chose us, so ...

(v.4) God the Father chose us, so ...

(vv.5-6) God the Father predestined us, so ...

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of this week's message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.

1. Start your group off by reading aloud Ephesians 1:3-14 from two different Bible versions. Make one version a translation (like the NASB or the ESV) and the other version a paraphrase (like the NLT or the Message). Can you identify the verses where Paul delineates each member of the Trinity? Why is it so important to see that the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit each have a role to play in bringing us to salvation?
2. Review "**The Great Exchange**" (sinful life, eternal death, horrible hell exchanged for right living, eternal life, happy Heaven) as outlined by PJ. In your own words, how would you explain what this exchange is all about? Can you see why the message of the Gospel is called the Good News?
3. **Ephesians 1:4** says that **God chose you** to be miraculously transformed into someone who is "**holy and without fault.**" **Ephesians 1:5** tells us that God **predestined** you to be adopted into His very own family. Plus, according to **Philippians 1:6**, He is committed to seeing the process through to completion. How does it make you feel to know that God chose you and makes that level of commitment to you? What questions has the sovereign choice of God in the salvation of people raised for you? How do you reconcile the tension between God choosing you and you choosing God?
4. Paul "**blesses**" ("**fine speaking**") God the Father in **Ephesians 1:3-6**, by telling us some pretty wonderful things about Him. What fine statements about God can you make in your group? When it comes to honoring God, how do we do this? When it comes to worshiping God, what does that entail inwardly and outwardly?