

Small Group Notes

Sermon: 8 January 2023



EPHESIANS

Blessed
Ephesians 1:1-14

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:1-14

OVERVIEW

The opening to this letter is jam-packed with truth. In the Greek it's one long sentence of praise. We explored the truth that if you are in Christ then you are blessed - not because of our external circumstances but because we are in Jesus.

Martin highlighted 5 blessings that Paul writes about in this passage.

1. Chosen (Verse 4)

Paul tells us that to be 'in Christ' means that we are chosen before the foundation of the world to be 'holy and blameless'. Our salvation is not an accident or mistake!

We looked at 3 main camps of thought around the topic of predestination found in Christendom:

Calvinist view = God chose you

Armenian view = God knew you'd choose Him

Corporate Election Perspective = God choose the Church

Whatever view we hold on this topic, we can all agree that in Christ we are chosen.

2. Adopted (Verses 5-6)

Secondly we saw how those who are in Christ are adopted in love to be children of God. Our relationship with God is one of friendship, love and affection. Jesus hasn't just saved us from our sin but he has also saved us for relationship.

3. Redeemed (Verses 7-10)

We are redeemed in Jesus. By his death on the cross Jesus paid the price to bring us into liberty. He has redeemed us so we are not defined by our sins but by His righteousness. We have been given a worth greater than we can know.

4. Inheritance (Verses 11-12)

There are two different views to what Paul means when he says "In Him we have obtained an inheritance."

a. We are Gods inheritance

God so desires us, we are his treasured possession.

b. We have an inheritance

Being co-heirs with Christ, we have an eternity of blessings ahead.

5. Sealed (Verses 13-14)

Finally we saw that we are blessed in Jesus and that the Holy Spirit is the seal of that blessing. He reveals that we belong to God, that we are His.

He is also our guarantee, that the work God has begun he will finish in Jesus. We can know security and eternal hope.

QUESTIONS

1. What blessing highlighted in this passage do you feel God is drawing your attention towards, and why do you think he is?
2. What challenges have you faced in living in the truth of these blessings?
3. What impact do you think it would have on your everyday life if you walked more and more in them?