

EPHESIANS: ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

Ephesians 1:3-8



EPHESIANS 1:3-8

When was a time you were cut off from the group, excluded, denied the benefits of belonging?

What was the point of Jesus' ministry? Can you summarize it in a sentence? Are there any verses that summarize it in a sentence?



EPHESIANS 1:3-8

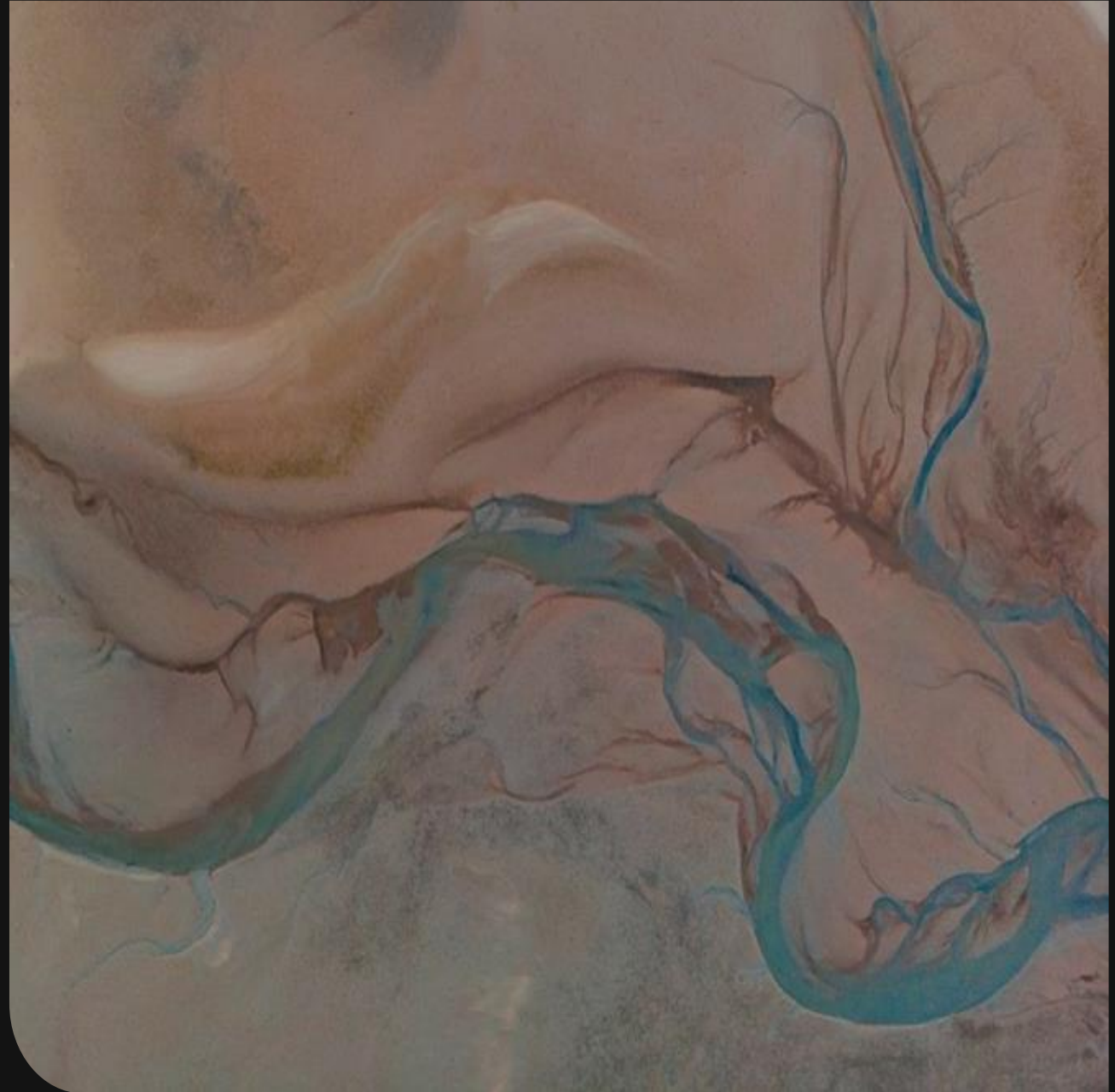
Starting from John 10:10 and John 17:3 and working forward, what are some of the implications that the point of Jesus' ministry was to enable us to know God?

How long will that take?

How will it happen?

What part of the bible would you read to learn about God and who he is more directly?

Do you like the idea of learning something new or figuring something out? Why do you think that is?





EPHESIANS 1:3-8

Let's read it!

- ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.
- In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons *and daughters* through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He favored us in the Beloved.
- ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our wrongdoings, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us.



EPHESIANS 1:3-4

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

- What does it mean to be blessed with every spiritual blessing? (possibly the preface to his list, the starting point where he's going to explain)
- How does being holy and blameless relate to our ability to know God? Why does it so often feel like we are not?



EPHESIANS 1:5-6

In love He predestined us to adoption as sons and daughters through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He favored us in the Beloved.

- How are you supposed to know if you are predestined? How is that supposed to be helpful?
- Is it permanent? Is it special somehow? What is “in the Beloved?”
- Why do we resent the implication that some are not predestined (or “favored”)?
- Is it part of God’s plan when someone does not believe?



EPHESIANS 1:7-8

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our wrongdoings, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.

- Which wrongdoings are forgiven?
- What kind of forgiveness is Paul speaking of here – judicial or relational?
- Why does Paul use the term “redemption” here?
- Why is it important that these things happened in the past?