

Our current series, Out Of Gas, is based on Paul's beautiful prayer in Ephesians 3:14-19. This week we are going to consider the larger context by reading what comes before it in Ephesians 1-2. Read each section given below and then answer the questions that follow.

Ephesians 1:1-6

What does it mean that Christians have already been "blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavens in Christ"? (v3)

What does it mean to you that, in Christ, you have been "adopted" into God's forever family? (v5)

Ephesians 1:7-12

How does redemption through Christ's blood provide for us *the forgiveness of our trespasses* (sins)? (v7)

How do you think God ultimately "works out everything in agreement with the purpose of His will?" (v11)

Ephesians 1:13-14

What does it mean that, "in Christ you were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit"? (v13-14)

Ephesians 1:15-19

How is this prayer similar, and different than Paul's prayer in 3:14-19?

Ephesians 1:20-22

Christianity lives or dies on one event: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. What all does this passage teach is accomplished by the resurrection?

Ephesians 2:1-10

Make a list of all that was true of us before we came to faith in Christ and all that is true of us after.

What does Paul mean that we are saved "not by works, so that no one can boast"? (v8-9)

Ephesians 2:11-22

The end goal of Christ's death and resurrection is not mere individual salvation, but the creation of "one new man." (15) This is the church, made up of both Jews and Gentiles brought together to form one unified church. But how would these two groups, enemies throughout the Old Testament, live in actual unity? This is the beginning of the immediate context for our prayer in Ephesians 3:14-19

Ephesians 3:1-13

The coming together of the diverse but unified church is the display of *God's muli-faceted wisdom*. (v 10)

The dynamic unity of the Church lived out by sinners saved by grace is impossible without God's power thru the beautiful love of Jesus being experienced in increasing fashion. Thus the prayer in 3:14-19!!