

message summary

The book of Ephesians begins like many letters of the first century. It has an identification of the author, the recipients, and a greeting, but this is no ordinary letter. Ephesians unveils your identity rooted in Christ and the profound blessings that flow from this relationship. Paul establishes the context addressing believers as the "saints" indicating their identity as set apart and devoted followers of Christ. It is easy to get lost on the theological debates in this passage on predestination, but don't miss the beauty of it. Paul celebrates how God, chose believers in Christ even before the creation of the world. This means He chose you! This divine act shapes a believers identity as God's beloved and adopted children, lavished with spiritual blessings. Please take the time to read Ephesians 1:1-14 as a group and then discuss the following questions.

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observation

- Are there any repeated words, phrases, or concepts in this passage? If so, what are they and what might they signify?

- What does the passage say about God's role and actions in the believers' lives?

- What are the different Spiritual blessings that Paul names in this passage?

OBSERVATION · OBSERVATION · OBSERVATION

interpretation

- How does the concept of being chosen before foundation of the world influence your understanding of your identity in Christ?

- Out of all the spiritual blessings listed in this passage, which one speak most to you and why?

- How does the sealing of the Holy Spirit relate to your assurance of your salvation?

INTERPRETATION · INTERPRETATION · INTERPRETATION

application

- How does knowing that we were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world impact our daily lives and choices?

- In what ways can we demonstrate gratitude for the redemption and forgiveness we have received through the blood of Jesus Christ?

- How is it as believers that we can bring about more grace and peace in our own life? How about the lives of others?

APPLICATION · APPLICATION · APPLICATION