

“WHO AM I?”

“SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST” (Ephesians 1:1-14)

Community Group Curriculum for the week of October 19, 2014

Big Picture

Think back to your elementary years, specifically recess time. When teams were selected, the fastest, the strongest, the tallest would be chosen first. When would you be picked? Or would you be picked? The result for many probably was anxiety and uncertainty. Well, in the first chapter of Ephesians the apostle Paul tells his readers that God has long ago picked His team. While we don't know for certain why we made the cut; those who are on God's team stand to receive our Father's richest blessings on our lives through Jesus Christ.

Let's Explore Together!

1. Read Ephesians 1:1-14. In this passage Paul breaks down the blessings received from the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
 - a) List and define the three blessings we receive from the Father in verses 3-6.

 - b) List and define the four blessings we receive from Jesus Christ in verses 7-12.

 - c) List and define the two blessings we receive from the Holy Spirit in verses 13-14.

 - d) Why are we granted these blessings (vv. 6, 12, 14)?

 - e) Of all of these blessings, what stands out as most important or most encouraging to you based on where you are at today in your walk with Christ?

 - f) What does Ephesians 1:1-14 teach about what Christians have in common?

2. Read Ephesians 1:5. Who initiated the adoption proceedings and why is that significant? What are the benefits of being adopted into God's family (Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 4:4-7)? What changes in your life once you are adopted into God's family? How have you lived out this identity in your day-to-day life?

3. Paul said in verses 5 and 11 that God “predestined” Christians to become His heirs. In verse 13 he said his readers became Christians when they heard and believed the gospel. Belief implies a decision freely chosen. Explain as best you can how both of Paul's statements are true (This issue has taxed the minds of Christians for centuries so don't worry if this gives you a headache).

4. Read Ephesians 1:9. Paul tells us that God has made known to us the mystery of His will. What is the mystery of God's will (Matthew 25:46; Romans 3:20-22; Philippians 3:20-21)? Has it been easy or difficult to discern God's will for your life? What ways does God use to show us His will for us? Discuss in your group.

5. Read Ephesians 1:13. Paul tells his readers they are “sealed with the Holy Spirit.” When something is sealed it is marked with the owner's name and secured as belonging to him or her. What are the two steps Paul says in verse 13 that are required to receive this sealing? How are we sealed with Christ (2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 4:30)?

6. How does Jesus' blood (verse 7) redeem us (Hebrews 9:1-18; Romans 3:21-26)?

Pray Psalm 150 Throughout the Week

We are to praise God! So pray **Psalm 150** each day. Pray it silently and then pray it out loud. Pray it alone and pray it with others. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Final Thoughts

When Jesus Christ wrote His last will and testament for His church, He made it possible for us to share His spiritual riches. Instead of spending it all, Jesus Christ paid it all. His death on the cross and His resurrection make possible our salvation. He wrote us into His will, and then He died so the will would be in force. Then He rose again that He might become the heavenly Advocate to make sure the terms of the will were correctly followed!

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You Are Blessed

Matt Vorhees

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INTRODUCTION:

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 1:1-14

EXPOSITION:

1. The _____ of the Father (1:4-6)

a. You are _____ (1:4)

b. You are _____ (1:5-6)

2. The _____ of the Son (1:7-12)

a. You are _____ (1:7-10)

b. You are _____ (1:11-12)

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3. The _____ of the Spirit (1:13-14)

a. You are _____ (1:13-14)

BOTTOM LINE:

APPLICATION:

3. The _____ of the Spirit (1:13-14)

a. You are _____ (1:13-14)

BOTTOM LINE:

APPLICATION: