

Sermon-Based Discussion

Date 9/18/22 Bryce Taylor

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BIBLE PASSAGES

Ephesians 1:1-14

Greeting

- 1**Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful^a in Christ Jesus:
2Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4**even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5**he predestined us^b for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6**to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7**In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8**which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9**making known^c to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10**as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

11In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **12**so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. **13**In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14**who is the guarantee^d of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,^e to the praise of his glory.

Other Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, John 16:5-14

Group Discussion & Life Challenge

Use these notes as discussion prompts for your group, or in your personal time with God.

Connect:

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

Dive into God's Word. Use these discussion questions. Learn from each other's insight.

- 1) *What is the thing that provides the most worry or nervousness in life? Ex: a group of strangers, a new season, the unknown, being out of control or something else?***
- 2) *When something worries you, what do you do? What is your normal response, and do you think it is helpful or healthy?***
- 3) *Discuss some of the examples of what Paul was referring to that help the believers in Ephesus to move away from their worries? (adoption, Holy Spirit, wisdom, understanding?) What makes the biggest impact?***
- 4) *Sometimes having the right conversation with the right person makes all the difference in the world when you fall into worry. Can you share a time where this worked for you?***
- 5) *2 Cor 12 gives a perspective on our weakness and God's strength. Can you share one weakness that you are wanting to trust God with more? What is currently a work in progress ?***

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS