

INTRODUCTION

- * Today, we begin a new series - a study of the Paul's letter to the church of Ephesus.
- * In this letter, Paul called upon his fellow believers to "walk worthy of the calling with which they were called." The letter can be broken up into two primary sections - doctrinal and practical. In the doctrinal section (comprising chapters 1-3), Paul is explaining the profound depth of their calling in Christ Jesus. In the practical section (comprising chapters 4-6), Paul reveals how we are to walk worthy of that calling in this world.
- * As Paul does in all of his letters, he jumps immediately into proclaiming the glory of God and who we are in relationship to God.
- * In the first part of chapter one, we see the repeated statement: "In Christ" or "In Him." All that we have is due to the Sovereign Grace of the Creator God of the Universe who established the plan of redemption prior to laying the foundations of the world and then entered into the world to bring His plan to completion - to the praise of the glory of His grace!!!
- * Today, we have the pleasure of testifying to the Spiritual Blessings which we have freely received by this marvelous grace - in Christ Jesus!

INSTRUCTION**I. GOD'S S _____ B _____**

A. We Are B _____ (v. 3; James 1:17)

B. We Are C _____ (v. 4)

- * cf. Mt 20:16; 22:14; 24:22,24,31; John 13:18; 15:16,19; Acts 1:2; 9:15; 13:17;
- * cf. Rom 8:33; 9:11; 11:5,7; 1 Cor 1:27-28; 2 Tim 2:10; 1 Pet 1:2; 2:4,6,9; 2 Pet 1:10

1. BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD! (cf. Matt 25:34; 1 Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:18; 17:8)
2. TO BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLAME BEFORE HIM IN LOVE (cf. 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 1:13-16; 1 Cor 1:2,8; Col 1:21-22; Heb 12:14)

C. We Are A _____ (v. 5; cf. Romans 8:14-17, 23; Galatians 4:5-6; 1 John 3:1)

1. BY THE FATHER'S PLAN (v. 5) ...
 - * proorizo: to determine beforehand (before horizon) ... Acts 4:28; Romans 8:29,30; 1 Cor 2:7; Eph 1:5,11
 - * orizo: to determine ... Luke 22:22; Acts 2:23; 10:42; 11:29; 17:26,31; Rom 1:4; Heb 4:7

2. BY THE FATHER'S WILL (v. 1,5,9,11; 1 Tim 2:3-4; Romans 9:18-19)

3. BY THE FATHER'S GRACE (v. 6a)

D. We Are A _____ (v. 6b) ... kharito-o: favored (cf. Luke 1:28 with v. 30) from kharis: grace; empowered

E. We Are R _____ (v. 7; cf. Acts 10:43; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

1. THROUGH HIS BLOOD (cf. Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:15)
2. ACCORDING TO HIS GRACE (cf. Romans 3:24)

F. We Are I _____ (v. 9-10; cf. Matthew 13:11; 1 Corinthians 2:6-12; Ephesians 3:1-12; Colossians 1:25-28)

G. We Are P _____ (v. 11; cf. 1 Peter 1:3-4; Colossians 1:12)

H. We Are Su _____ (v. 13-14; cf. John 7:39; Ephesians 4:30)

II. MAN'S R _____ C _____

A. We H _____ the W _____ of Truth (cf. Colossians 1:4-6; Romans 10:14,17; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; Romans 1:16; Luke 16:29-31)

B. We T _____ In the W _____ of Christ (cf. Psalm 34:8,22; John 3:16,18; 5:24; 6:29,40; 12:44; Acts 10:43)

INTROSPECTION

- * DOES GOD RECEIVE GLORY IN, AND THROUGH, YOUR LIFE?
- * ARE YOU "IN" CHRIST JESUS? OR, DO YOU JUST HAVE INTELLECTUAL KNOWLEDGE?
- * ARE YOU FOCUSING ON GOD AND HIS TRUTH, OR ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR LIFE?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * As we are being equipped to share the gospel, how does this passage fit into my "thinking process"? Does it squash my desire to tell others - because of the terms "election" and "predestination"? Does it motivate me to share with others the blessings which God bestows?