



ALL THINGS IN CHRIST

an Ephesians study

HUB GROUP NOTES | APRIL 25, 2021 David Newkirk

As an opera has an overture, setting the tone for all the melodies that will follow, so Ephesians 1:3-14 sets the tone for the rest of Ephesians.

Read Ephesians 1:3-14 together.

Use the NET Bible, NKJV, or NAS Bible - www.biblegateway.com is a great place to find all of these versions for free.

1. In the NET Bible, verses 3-14 comprise one long (202 word) sentence in Greek. What word or phrases are repeated multiple times in it?

2. As a group, identify the different blessings in this passage.

In verse 3 Paul writes, "*Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ.*" He goes on in verses 4-14 to describe "*every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms*" that believers have been blessed with.

3. As you read verse 3, what kind of blessings does God bless believers with? What is the location of those blessings? As a believer in Jesus Christ, how do you access these blessings (vs.12-13)? Using only this passage, in what ways did God lavish His grace on us?

4. How does being blessed praise God's glory? In other words, how do God's blessings to us bring praise and glory to God? (see verses 6, 12, 14)

5. Why does the phrase "to the praise of His glory" follow the work of the Father (vs. 6), the Son (vs. 12) and the Spirit (vs. 12)? Do these words support the concept of the trinity?

6. Is our adoption complete? See Romans 8:23. What does God deposit in us to keep us from doubting that we are truly adopted heirs of His promise? What part does hope play in this?

7. When God calls us elect, chosen, predestined - is He speaking to individuals or to the church at large? What part does our faith play in being chosen, adopted or predestined?

We find tension between different ideas in the Bible:

There has been a lot of debate over election and predestination. Some advice that your pastoral staff would give you - do not let your mind ask the theoretical and useless questions about election which God does not answer in His word. Instead, let your mind dwell on the precious truth that you are elect and predestined to display God's glory to all the world and for all ages! Or, as Dr. McGee put it: "You are the elect if you hear His voice... If He did the choosing, then He is responsible."

8. How does it make you feel when you realize that before creation God chose to bless you in Christ and display His glory through your life?

9. What role did the Holy Spirit play in your salvation, regardless of whether you think it was free will or totally God's sovereignty? What was required of you in order to be saved?

10. How do you think God views believers who feel insecure in His love and fear failure in their Christian life? Is this a normal experience for us when we aren't walking in the Spirit?

11. Things to consider when speaking about election, predestination and free will:

AGREE or DISAGREE: Whenever God speaks of election or predestination to an individual, there is mankind's part and there is God's part in the process.

What is God's role? What is our role? Do we keep ourselves saved? Does God keep us saved?

Read Ephesians 1:7-8 again.

AGREE or DISAGREE: "In every instance where grace is mentioned, it is entirely due to God's favor, not human works."

As a group, come up with a statement that everyone can agree on about the role God plays and the role you play in your salvation experience. Please include scripture verses that support your group's statement.

2021 BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER REQUESTS:

Father, pour out your Spirit on us and move us forward together.

Father, please retire the Worship Center mortgage by 2025.

Father, please use us to build a reproducing church among an unreached people - the Nyamwezi - by 2030.