

Ephesians 1:1-14

Extra Questions and Commentaries

Paul and the Ephesians - background

- At the end of his second missionary journey, Paul visited Ephesus. What do you learn about this visit from Acts 18:18-21?

- Read Acts 19 and list what you learn about Paul's visit to the Ephesians on his third missionary journey.
 - the Ephesians' background, culture...
 - instruction they received from Paul
 - their response to the teaching of the gospel

Background	Instruction	Response

FYI: Predestined (1:5) "Since our minds are finite, we are unable to comprehend the infinite character of the plan and purpose of God, which is exactly the situation with regard to the clearly Biblical truth of predestination. In no way does this preclude the ability of God to plan also the paradoxical truth of human freedom and responsibility, which also are clearly Biblical (remember God's ability is infinite!). We cannot fully comprehend with our minds, but can believe and rejoice with our hearts that God has known and chosen us believers for Himself even before the world began."
- Henry Morris

Blessings from God

- In review, from Ephesians 1:3-6 ,mark or make a list of God's actions toward you. (note the verbs: *blessed, chosen...*)

- List the words that describe God's motivation in giving us these amazing blessings. 1:4d, 1:5c, 1:6
- What does Ephesians 1:1-6 say about God's attitude toward you? About your value? (Do these truths challenge any negative self-talk?)

"Redemption" (1:7)

- What did God say about the cost of a man's life? Psalm 49:7-8
- Why was Christ's payment enough? 2 Corinthians 5:21

"Riches" (1:7)

- Underline the traits/gifts associated with God's "riches" in the following verses.
 - Romans 2:4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? NIV
 - Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! NASU
 - Ephesians 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, NASU
 - Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, NASU
 - Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. NASU

"Administration suitable to the fullness of the times" (1:10)

IT'S GREEK TO ME: Administration/dispensation/to be put into effect (1:10) "*oikonomia* NT:3622 primarily signifies 'the management of a household or of household affairs' (oikos, 'a house,' nomos, 'a law'); then the management or administration of the property of others, and so 'a stewardship'... in Eph 1:10 and 3:9, it is used of the arrangement or administration by God..."

- Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

"The fact that the will of God is so closely tied to Christ's work of redemption and that He is the one who is to rule has important implications. All others who claim to be intermediaries between God and humanity must be working outside of God's will. God has planned from eternity to make Jesus Christ the only means of obtaining salvation (John 14:6). Thus Christ should not be taken lightly or ignored. The same point is made by Paul's constant use of the phrase *in Christ* in this letter. It was 'in Christ' that God executed His plan of salvation, and it is only 'in Christ' that humanity obtains this salvation." - Africa Bible Commentary (1427)

- Mark the phrases “*before the foundation of the world*” (1:4), “*in the fullness of time*” (1:10), and “*in the ages to come*” (2:7) What does this about the scope of God’s plan for us?

- Mark the words “*according to*” in vv. 5,7,9,11 and list the phrases that describe what our blessings are *according to*.

“The Holy Spirit” (1:13)

- What commands are given regarding the Holy Spirit in:
 - Ephesians 4:30

 - Galatians 5:16,25

- What do these verses reveal about the importance of the Holy Spirit’s guidance in our lives?