

THROW

LOOKING BACK TO SEE GOD TODAY

KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE: LIFE GROUP-SPRING WK8

Read Ephesians 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. 11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

- 1. Paul wrote this letter to God's holy people. When you think of God's holy people, who comes to mind? What have they done? How do they act? What is their attitude? Do you consider yourself to be one of God's holy people? Why or why not?**

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2. *In verse 3, “in Christ” means that ones eternal position and privileges have changed. How would you help a believer understand this truth? How does ones eternal position and privileges help define their identity and purpose.*
3. *From verses 4-14, which of the benefits of being “in Christ” stands out to you the most right now? Explain.*
4. *Paul mentions five privileges to be “in Christ”.*
 - *Adoption into His family (vs 4-6)*
 - *Forgiveness of sins (vs 7-8a)*
 - *Knowledge of God’s purposes and plans (vs 8b-10)*
 - *Joy in the work of faith (vs 11-12)*
 - *Hope in the work of faith (vs 13-14)*

Pick one of these privileges and describes what it looks like when someone is fleshing it out and enjoying the benefits?

5. *Being “in Christ” changes our eternal position and privilege which should change our attitudes, behaviors, and responsibilities. What aspect of being in Christ is most challenging for you:*
 - *believing your position has changed*
 - *rejecting the world’s view of the way you should think and behave*

Prayer: Spend a moment thanking God for the incredible benefits and privileges we receive for being “in Christ”.