

Study Questions - Week 1
(Ephesians 1:3-6)

Here are some helpful hints as you begin your study:

- Verses 3-14 of chapter 1 constitute one single sentence in the original text. Try 202 words!
- Those verses have a natural outline. Check out "to the praise of His glory" in verses 6, 12, 14.

A. Read verses 3-14. Who are the 3 main subjects i.e. who are the ones doing the action?

B. Summarize what the Father (vv 3-6), the Son (vv 6-12) and the Spirit do (vv 13-14).

C. Read verses 3-6. Summarize in 10 words or less what it is saying.

D. Look at verse 3. What word is repeated? What are 3 things we are told about these "blessings"?

E. Look at verses 4-6. The key words are "*predestination*" and "*election*". Both mean the act of "calling out beforehand", "to determine a destination beforehand."

- What is our election based on?
- When and why were we chosen?
- What is the telltale evidence you were chosen?

F. Question for thought: If God chose only some but not all is that fair?

G. Question for thought: Verse 5 says we were chosen unto adoption as sons. Does the Bible teach "*double predestination*" i.e. God not only chooses some to sonship but He also chooses others to a Christ less eternity?

H. If we believe God has chosen people why should we witness?

I. What does verse 6 say is the primary purpose behind the Father's selection? How does this support a God centered Gospel?

J. Name one way verses 3-6 can change your life?

EPHESIANS

A GOD
CENTERED
GOSPEL

Introduction

Ephesians 1:1-2

(This is the 1st in a series of messages entitled *The God Centered Gospel*)

What is your purpose in life? How do you set the agenda for what you do with the hours and days and years of your life? How do you know that the way you are living your life really matters? Every human being must live for something. Something must capture our imaginations, our heart's most fundamental allegiance and hope. Some of what drives us are things like guilt, resentment and anger, fear, materialism, and the need for approval. There are other things we can add to that list, things such as lust, greed, love, the desire to serve, the need for security, the desire to protect or to produce or to conserve. Certainly, you and I function from out of a complex set of motivations, not all of which do we understand or appreciate.

The apostle Paul wrote the epistle to the Ephesians so that we might know the difference between a "God centered" Gospel and a "Man centered" Gospel. The former puts God and His goals and purposes as the reference point for all things. The latter puts man and his needs, desires and goals as the reference point for all things.

The Christian worldview accepts only the God centered Gospel. We belong to God, not the other way around. And because we belong to God, we look to God to set our agendas, to determine our courses, to define the purposes of our lives. Then having understood the difference a believer will choose to weigh her/his life in that direction.

This is what makes for a worthy life, the only life worth living.

Lesson

Ephesians 1-3

Not because of this...	but because of this!
Our _____	God's _____ (1:1,5,9,11)
Our _____	God's _____ (1:5,9)
Our _____ of mind	God's _____ (1:9,11; 3:11)

Not by this...	but by this!
Our innate _____	God's _____ (1:19; 3:7,16,20)
Our _____	God's _____ (1:8, 17; 3:10)
Our _____	God's _____ (1:9,18; 2:4,7; 3:8,16)

Not for this...	but for this!
God _____ to us	We _____ to God (1:5)

Not about this...	but about this!
Our _____	God's _____ (1:6,12,14; 3:18,21)