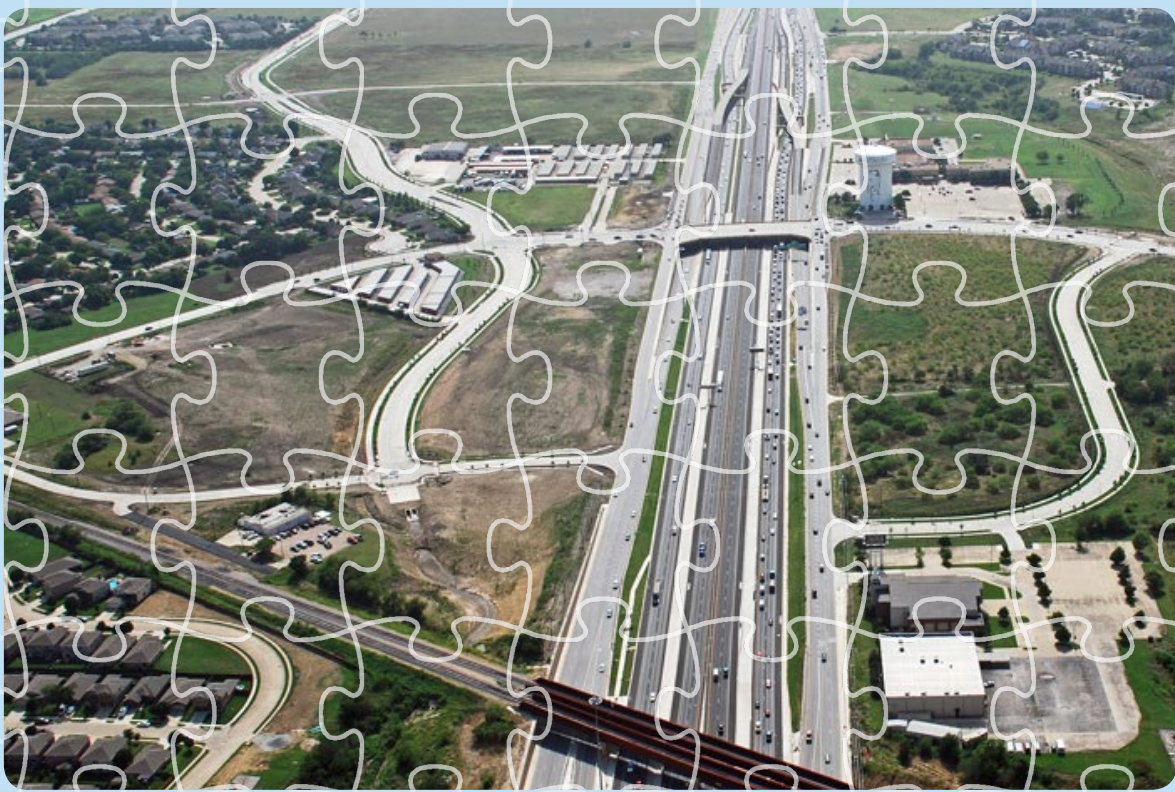


DONALD J. WILLS
SENIOR PASTOR

JANUARY
2019

COMMUNITY

IT'S TIME



ADULT CONNECT
CLASS CURRICULUM



The purpose of First Baptist Church of Fort Worth is to **introduce** people into a loving relationship with Jesus, **instruct** them in spiritual growth through God's Word, **inspire** them to serve for God's kingdom, and **incorporate** them in authentic worship to glorify God.

A Note From Our Pastor

Dear FBC family and friends,

Looking at the world around us, we see people who desperately seek a place to belong where they can feel a sense of acceptance and community. Apart from Christ, however, nothing can satisfy that longing. Without Christ, we can never truly have community or contentment. In 2019, we will study what it truly means to be a community of believers who can impact the world through the gospel of Jesus Christ. To be an effective community, we need to have a relationship with Jesus Christ whereby we understand our calling, know our responsibilities, and focus on worshiping our Savior through service, obedience, and edification of one another.

As a reminder, the layout of this Curriculum begins with a 7-day approach for both the teacher and the members to get the most from each study. We also acknowledge that teachers may have their own methods for preparing the lessons and we encourage them to prepare in the way that makes them most effective in presenting God's Word and the weekly lesson. We also encourage each teacher and member to use the suggested 7-day approach for their own personal study and encouragement.

We will begin our study with Ephesians which will give us a comprehensive picture of the community which God has called us to be. Growing and serving as members of God's community here at FBCFW will require some sacrifice on our part, but we must remember that Christ shed His blood for us to have the right to be members of His body and receive an inheritance beyond compare. Therefore, let us dedicate ourselves this year to studying God's Word together as a community, pursuing a relationship with Christ and others in the community to encourage one another and to keep us accountable, sharing the gospel with everyone whom we meet on a daily basis, and worshiping our Savior corporately as a people whom He has graciously called. To God be the glory for providing us with such a community as FBCFW and giving us guidance in His Word which clearly outlines His plan for us.

-Blessings
Pastor Don



Suggested Plan for Using this Bible Study Guide Effectively

Introduce

Day 1: Read and meditate on the Scripture, asking God to guide you throughout the week as you study His Word and allowing Him to speak to you through the Spirit. Read the **INTRODUCE** portion of the lesson commentary.

Instruct

Day 2: Read the Scripture, meditate on it, and read the **INSTRUCT** portion of the lesson commentary. Concentrate on memorizing the focal verse for that particular week.

Day 3: Read the Scripture, meditate on it, and answer the focal questions in the **INSTRUCT** portion of the lesson commentary.

Inspire

Day 4: Read the Scripture, meditate on it, and begin thinking about tangible ways you can incorporate the principles you learned in your daily life. Read the **INSPIRE** portion of the lesson commentary.

Incorporate

Day 5: Read the Scripture, meditate on it, and apply the theological principle that you learned from this week in a tangible way. Use the **INCORPORATE** portion of the lesson commentary to guide you.

Day 6: Read the Scripture, meditate on it, and in the journal section describe how God allowed you to apply this passage in a real and tangible way this week.

Day 7: Review the Scripture and share with others in your Connect Class on Sunday morning at 9:30am. Be ready to share your experience about how God allowed you to apply the lesson for that week.

Contents
January Lesson Plan

3



January 6, 2019

**Chosen According
to God's Plan**

[Ephesians 1:1-6](#)

15



January 13, 2019

**Cleansed through
Christ's Blood**

[Ephesians 1:7-14](#)

29



January 20, 2019

**Called to Comprehend
our Inheritance**

[Ephesians 1:15-23](#)

43



January 27, 2019

**Consecrated by
God's Grace**

[Ephesians 2:1-10](#)

January 6, 2019



*Chosen according
to God's Plan*
Ephesians 1:1-6

Focal Verse:

"Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."

Ephesians 1:4

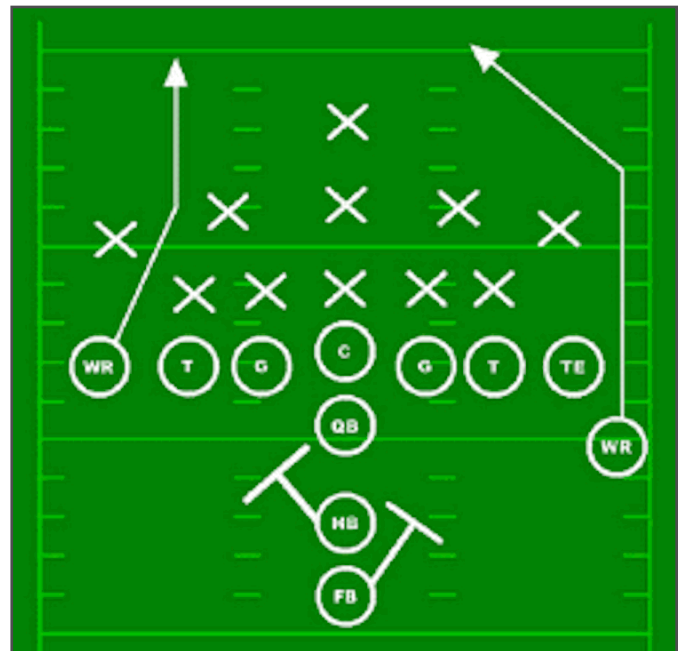
back to
Table of
Contents

Introduce

Next week, two football teams will face each other in pursuit of a title at the national championship game in hopes of being crowned king of the collegiate sports world after a season-long battle. Years before this season even began, these two programs, like all the others, had their eyes on the ultimate prize and mapped out a course to victory by scouting and recruiting the best players for each position and offering them scholarships to join the team. When they recruited players, the coaches and staff persuaded them to buy into the team's philosophy, system of play, and goals. Each player would then use his unique gifts and talents to fill a particular role and contribute to the advancement of the entire team in pursuit of that singular goal. As a result, the entire team had to mesh and each player had to accept the plan which the head coach had developed for the team as a whole!

As the season grew closer, the teams began to focus their attention more specifically by rehearsing the fundamentals of the game and scouting their opponents for individual matchups during the season. The overarching goal, however, remained the same: to win the championship. For every game during the season, the coaches and staff would develop a game plan which should lead them to victory if the team executed it properly. For this reason, we often hear the coaches of teams who fell short lament, "We didn't execute our game plan tonight." No coach or team would ever go into a season without a game plan and simply "wing it"; this would be a recipe for disaster! Instead, they arduously and meticulously planned every aspect that put the team in position to win.

Before the foundation of the world, God had a game plan to deal with man's failure and disobedience because He foreknew that man would make the wrong choice and sin. Unlike human coaches, God's game plan wasn't "thrown off" when man sinned, but perfectly executed despite man's sin. God's perfect game plan called for recruiting people who would repent of their sins and accept His philosophy for life as outlined in Scripture. In fact, God has offered everyone a place in His kingdom, but like some college athletes who reject one school in favor of another, some people choose to



Introduce

reject God's offer to be on the winning side and follow the path that leads to death and destruction. The only way we can win, therefore, and have eternal life is through the plan which God executed in His Son, Jesus.

From the foundation of the world, God called a people unto Him whom He would use to represent Him and through whom He would bring the long-awaited Messiah to save the entire world. Although these people were imperfect at times, God overcame their sins and called them to repentance and service to Him alone. This group of people, however, couldn't save the world or even themselves, but through their genuine faithfulness God sent One into the world who could! Our prayer as we study the theme of community this year is that you have trusted in God's plan and have received the life He offers through His Son. The only way that we can be part of this community, that is the church, is to have a personal relationship with Christ through His finished sacrifice upon the cross and the life He grants through His resurrection—a gift that God extends to us all! For God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" through "the Man Christ Jesus who gave Himself a ransom for all" (1 Tim 2:4-6).

Key
Question

What is God's game plan to deal with sin?

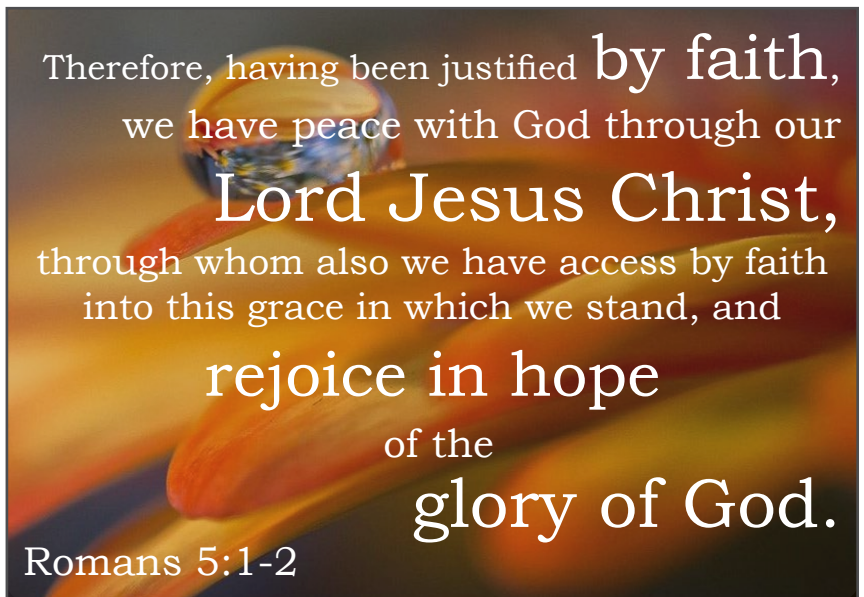
Ephesians 1:1-3

THE SOURCE OF OUR BLESSINGS:

As Paul sits under arrest in the city of Rome awaiting an appearance at a trial before Caesar, God leads him to pen a letter **to the saints in Ephesus** to remind them about how they had become members in God's community (i.e. the church) and how they ought to live as His representatives. Like many of his letters, Ephesians opens with a lengthy theological section that relates the gospel and invites all people to participate in salvation through Christ. Although we may often overlook the personal introduction in the first two verses, it contains an implicit statement of the gospel and is worthy of our attention.

First, we see the source of our salvation: **from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ** (v. 2). God initiated the plan for salvation by sending His Son who would die as a perfect sacrifice which would remove the sin of the world and give eternal life to all who repent and surrender to Him. For this reason, Paul highlights the **grace and peace** offered in Christ.

When we read the phrase **grace and peace**, it may seem as a mere greeting or wish of well-being or good luck, but in reality it summarizes the gospel. Salvation begins by God's **grace**; we don't deserve it, but God has freely given it because He loves us so much. The result of salvation, therefore, is **peace**. In this sense, **peace** does not mean the absence of physical conflict or tribulation, but rather complete well-being and spiritual restoration in Christ which removes God's wrath against our sin (Rom 5:1-2). When we read over these words hurriedly, we miss the connection to salvation. The most important thing in this world is not to be free from physical trouble, but to be in right standing with the Lord by means of a relationship with Christ.



How does God's grace bring peace into our lives?

Question
1

Instruct

Second, Paul also outlines two responsibilities for believers in this brief introduction. Because we have experienced this transformation through the salvation offered by Christ, we are called to remain **faithful** (v. 1). We should be **faithful** to adhere to the truth of Scripture and to live by its holy principles as Christ has instructed us. In addition, Paul identifies himself as **an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God**. Although Paul applies this designation mainly to himself, it technically applies to all believers. An **apostle** is a messenger who heralds the good news of the gospel to all the world. Before ascending into heaven after His resurrection, Jesus commanded His disciples to take the gospel into all the world ([Matt 28:19-20](#)). Therefore, one of the main tenets of God's **will** for every one of us is that we remain **faithful** to witness and allow Him to impact the world through the testimony that He has given us.

In what ways should we live out our faith in God's community—that is the church?

Question
2

As Paul closes the introduction to his letter, he begins the main body with a declaration of praise directed toward **God the Father** (v. 3). Over the next twelve verses, Paul outlines the **spiritual blessings** with which **God has blessed us in Christ**. Over the next two weeks, we will study these blessings in-depth, but today we will examine three of them in particular: the **blessing** of being transformed in holiness (v. 4), the **blessing** of being adopted as children (v. 5), and the **blessing** of being accepted by the Savior (v. 6). Although Paul details these specific blessings, he makes sure to point out that **every spiritual blessing** comes from the Lord. When we think of blessings, we tend to focus on our health, finances, and possessions, but God has blessed us in so many more ways—whether through relationships, maturity, wisdom, contentment, finding purpose in serving Him, opportunities to enjoy His creation, salvation, personal access to Him at any time, and so much more! Here, the focus lies on **spiritual blessings**; sometimes these blessings can be tangible and quantifiable in terms of what God has given us, but sometimes they mainly represent who God is and how He relates to us. Let's make sure we direct our praise to the Lord for **every spiritual blessing** in our lives!

In what ways has the Lord blessed you for which you should offer Him praise?

Question
3

Ephesians 1:4-6

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR BLESSINGS:

In the first three verses of this passage, we have seen the *source* of our blessings, but now Paul turns to describe their *significance*. As we transition to an explanation of these **spiritual blessings**, we find some difficult theological subjects which have often been misunderstood and misinterpreted. However, God's Word remains clear when we pay close attention to the context in which it was written. Terms like **chosen** (i.e. elected) and **predestined** have been misapplied because people have taken them out of the biblical context and interpreted them through theological systems developed by man which often obscure and distort the truth. Therefore, we cannot focus on these words alone, but we must assess what they mean within the context in which the Spirit led Paul to write them. As we study this passage as a community of believers, let's look at these concepts afresh and hear God speak to us through His text.

v. 4

CHOSEN TO BE SANCTIFIED:

The first **spiritual blessing** which God bestows upon us comes in the form of His transforming power which makes us into someone He can use as His representative. For this reason, Paul points out that God has chosen **us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blame** (v. 4). When God created man, He created us in His image to be His representatives to the rest of creation and oversee it ([Gen 1:27](#)). Unfortunately, man shirked his responsibility and chose a path of sinful disobedience over God's provision and blessing. Despite the fact that we severed our relationship with the Lord through sin, God already had a plan in place to redeem and restore us to participate in His original purpose for our lives. God extends the invitation for every one of us to participate in His plan and He graciously wants to use us to accomplish it, but to do so we must surrender to Him completely and allow Him to transform our character to conform to His ([Rom](#)



For whom He foreknew,
He also predestined to
**BE CONFORMED TO THE
IMAGE OF HIS SON,**
that He might be the firstborn
among many brethren.
Romans 8:29

Instruct

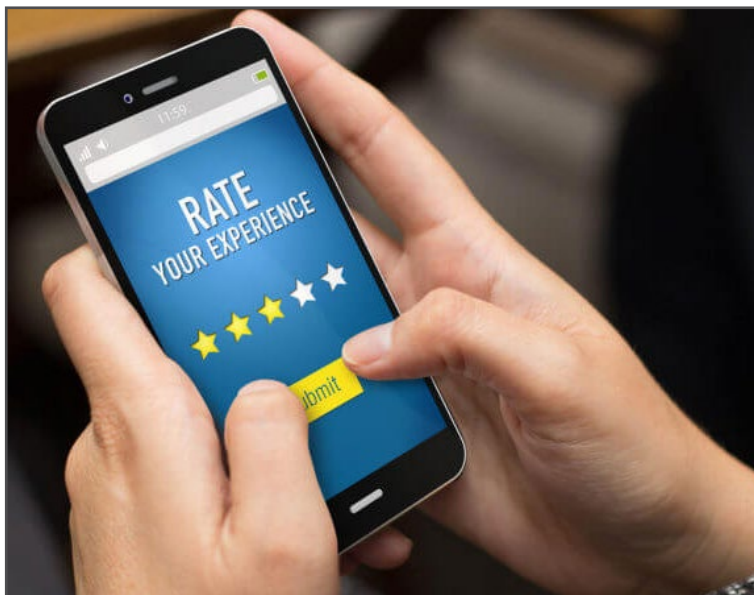
[10:13](#)). Although at times we will still be imperfect, we should strive to live consistently according to the principles in His Word and the character that He has revealed to us through His Son ([Lev 19:2](#); [Rom 8:29](#)).

Paul's emphasis in verse 4 lies upon the process of sanctification *after* God has restored us to our original purpose as His representatives. Paul isn't saying that God elects some to salvation while condemning others to destruction. On the contrary, when we look at the context, we see that Paul is arguing that all who have a relationship with Him **should be holy and without out blame**. Our purpose, therefore, is to reflect the image of the Lord! We often define the concept of sanctification as to set apart and make holy, but in reality it entails someone being set apart and made holy *for a purpose*! We frequently omit the most significant part of the concept: for a purpose. The purpose of being **holy and without blame**, therefore, is to make ourselves available and useful in accomplishing God's plan by becoming the most effective witnesses we can. In order to be used by God effectively, we must reflect His holy character to the world around us as His ambassadors so that others will have a true picture of who God is and how He has transformed us completely.

According to Scripture, what is God's plan and purpose for our lives?

Question
4

In the digital world in which we live, we access a number of sites which contain reviews about products and services. Before buying a product, eating at a restaurant, or staying at a hotel, for example, a savvy consumer would go online and read through a number



of reviews in order to determine which one had the best reviews and which one would ultimately work best for them. Imagine, for instance, the product which you researched only had negative reviews; no one said anything positive or beneficial about it at all. Would you use that product, eat at that restaurant, or stay in that hotel? With confidence, we would all say no; there is too much risk involved and it would almost guarantee

a bad experience. The same can be said about our lives when we claim that we reflect Christ and His character. Believers who have a bad attitude, constantly complain or make negative remarks, do not display forgiveness, love, or grace, and above all act hypocritically, can actually discourage people from coming to the Lord. For this reason, it is imperative that we live **holy** and blameless lives in Him! Certainly, God can take the negative in our lives and transform it, but others should see that transforming power of God at work in our character. They can't see it if we continue to make the same mistakes and participate in the same sin, but they will undoubtedly see it when God changes our perspectives and desires to **be holy and without blame before Him**.

What does it mean to be holy and blameless?
Why is it important that we should seek to live
holy and blameless lives?

Question
5

In Western thought, we tend to emphasize the importance of the individual over the community, so many have wrongly come to believe that God chooses or elects individuals for salvation. Nowhere does the Bible ever support this conclusion! Even here, Ephesians addresses the entire community whom God has chosen to conform to His image and **be holy and without blame**. Although God loves us individually, He sent His Son to die for us collectively (i.e. the world, [John 3:16](#)) and calls us into a community (that is the church) to whom He offers life. Even before He created the world, God had a plan and purpose to redeem humanity. He sought a people who would serve Him, though imperfectly at times, and through whom He could send the Messiah to bring about restoration to the entire world. Consequently, we can state that God has chosen us as a people because we have accepted His call by surrendering our lives to His chosen sacrifice in Christ.

v. 5-6a

ADOPTED AS SONS:

Second, God graciously grants us all the rights and privileges as His adopted children. Therefore, Paul notes that **in love** God has **predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ** (v. 5). In these verses, the context focuses on the spiritual blessings which God has lavished on us because of His love for us. We receive these rights and privileges because we have a relationship with God the Father through Christ. We aren't **predestined** to receive salvation. Because we have received salvation through Christ, however, we are **predestined** to obtain all the privileges which God bestows upon His

Instruct

children. For instance, John states, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” ([John 1:12](#)).

As an adopted child, God loves us equally and no one is treated as a second-class



member of the family; instead, we all receive the same benefits as a natural-born child because in Christ we have become “joint heirs” and our status as God’s representatives has been reinstated. Because we are part of God’s community through what Christ has done for us through His death and resurrection, therefore, we can enjoy all the benefits our

heavenly Father desires to give us. As His children, God desires us to live an abundant life in Him which affords us contentment, joy, and freedom from worry when we surrender to Him because He will provide for our needs according to His riches in glory and guide our paths through His Holy Spirit ([Matt 6:33-34](#); [John 10:10](#); [Phil 4:12, 19](#)).

What benefits do we have as children of God?

Question
6

When we think about **adoption** and our relationship with Christ, we often think in terms of what we receive from God, but as His adopted children we also have a responsibility to Him! We can do nothing to earn these rights and privileges because as His children God has freely and graciously endowed them to us. Thus, Paul’s emphasis on our **adoption according to the good pleasure of His will** is another way of stating that we have been saved and given these immense privileges by God’s grace. Although we do not earn special favor, we still have a responsibility to live according to God’s **will**. Specifically, in this context that means to **be holy and without blame** (v. 4). As His children, therefore, we are to represent Him to the world around us by living in accordance to the principles outlined in Scripture and by being an exemplary model which points others to Him through our faithfulness and love. As a result, our lives should bring honor, **praise**, and **glory** to Him (v. 6a)—from us as well as from those who see the transformation that He has brought about in our lives.

What are our responsibilities as God’s children?

Question
7

ACCEPTED BY THE SAVIOR:

The final spiritual blessing which we will address this week is that God **made us accepted** by **His grace in the Beloved** (v. 6b). We live in a world that craves acceptance; people so desperately want to find love and acceptance that they often turn to the wrong places. People even want to experience “acceptance” despite their sin; for this reason, they try to justify their sins by rejecting the truth and making it relative to their own situation and view. In addition, they try to implicate God in their sin by claiming that He “accepts” everyone just as they are without any transformation required. When we read this verse, however, many people miss three words: **He made us accepted**. It doesn’t say that God accepted us **in the Beloved** (Christ), but that **He made us accepted!** There is a big difference between these two concepts, particularly as defined by our world today.

Christ certainly met us where we were without hope in sin, but He transformed us to make **us accepted by** the Father because **the Beloved** shed His blood and cleansed our sins. True acceptance, therefore, only comes when we have been restored in Christ to our original purpose as God’s holy representatives to the world. Even though the world may not “accept” us in that official capacity, we have a God who **has made us accepted** and adopted as His children! Whether in commercials, movies, music, or pop-culture in general, we hear much about being who we are and accepting others. As Christians, it’s not about who we are, but about who we have become in Christ! God does not and never will accept sin and disobedience, but He always stands ready to forgive and restore us when we fail. To be **made accepted** means that we have been transformed and redeemed in Christ. As a community in Christ, we need to be **made accepted** by the transformation He offers rather than looking to the world which gives false hope and acceptance that only leads to destruction.

In what ways does the world seek acceptance?
How will our lives look when we are made accepted by the Beloved?

Question
7

In the introduction, we saw how coaching staffs in college football have a game plan that spans years, so they can develop a program that consistently wins. Likewise, God also had a victorious game plan for us before He even created the world to redeem us through the blood of His Son and enable us to function as His representatives to the rest of creation. Here at FBCFW, we have a game plan for 2019 to glorify the Lord, reach every generation with the gospel, and grow in maturity as His children. Generally, we can compare our game plan to that of a sports team. First, we must recruit; invite people to church at the very least as often as you can, but even more importantly share the gospel message and invite them to experience salvation in Christ. Second, we need to learn from the proper playbook; we need to have a quiet time in which we study Scripture and learn the principles that God wants us to apply in our lives.

Third, we need to learn the fundamentals; to do this, we need mentors who teach God's Word to help us grow in maturity as a community. It's important that we continually invite people to join our Connect Classes and other small-group Bible studies so that we can study Scripture more in-depth together. Finally, we must have one goal as a community: to glorify the Lord in how we live, how we serve, how we give, and how we witness. Throughout the season, the coaching staff evaluates the team's performance to determine how effectively they have accomplished their goal. As Christians, we also need to seek God's wisdom in evaluating our performance of the responsibilities He has given us in light of Scripture!

Over the course of this year, pray and seek the Lord, asking Him to reveal to you how well you are doing as His child: do you represent Him by living a holy life consistent with His Word, are you faithful in doing what He has commanded, are you serving in ways that He has gifted you, do you give of your time, talents, and tithes with which He has blessed you, and do you share the gospel with others through your actions and words? As His children, let us partner together in this community to glorify Him and allow Him to use us to grow His kingdom right here in Fort Worth, Texas.

Incorporate

What is the requirement for membership in the community (church) as defined here in [Ephesians 1:1-6](#)?

What are the spiritual blessings of a relationship with Christ?

How have you seen the spiritual blessings of God here in this church? How can we use them to direct praise and glory to God and point other people into a relationship with Him?

How do you exercise your responsibility as a child of God here in this church?

January 13, 2019



*Cleansed through
Christ's Blood
Ephesians 1:7-14*

Focal Verse:

*"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins,
according to the riches of His grace."*

Ephesians 1:7

back to
Table of
Contents

Introduce

Several years ago when I first began seminary as a twenty-one-year-old, we had to register for classes by calling the registrar via phone on the assigned day and giving them the code which we had received in the mail. The seminary had not yet embraced the newer technology of the digital age which was still rapidly developing; in fact, it wouldn't for several more years. Although I had registered on time without any problem, my roommate hadn't paid attention to the date on his packet and forgot. After he realized his error, he still tried to call the registrar to plead for mercy in an attempt to register, so he tried to



give them his original password in hopes it would allow him. However, the voice on the other end of the line said, "Your code doesn't seem to work. It appears that you have missed the date. You will need to call back on this particular date."

As ingenious as my roommate was by comparing my password with his, he figured out that all the codes were the names of states that semester, so once again he called the registrar's office. This time he tried to use the password with which I had registered, so he boldly declared, "Texas." When that didn't work, he tried another, "Tennessee," and another "Mississippi." After a while, the person in the office recognized his voice and understood what he was trying to do. So, he kindly said, "Sir, you're too late to register. You've missed the deadline. You'll have to wait for the day of redemption." When the day of redemption finally arrived, my roommate didn't forget nor did he delay in trying to register in hopes of still getting the schedule that he desired. Later that day, I saw him at a distance walking leisurely across the lawn in front of the rotunda building. With his arms waving in the air and an excitement in his voice he exclaimed, "I've been redeemed!"

Fortunately, the Lord offers us many chances to be redeemed by the blood of His Son shed upon the cross. With infinite grace and mercy, God freely gives life to all in Christ who will accept His plan, repent of their sins, and surrender their lives fully to Him. Just as my roommate couldn't skirt the requirements for registering at the appropriate

Introduce

time, we can't overcome sin in any other way except through the blood of Christ. Many have tried through other means, but all have failed. Redemption is found in Christ alone! Although my roommate had a chance to be redeemed on an appointed day, in Christ when we reach that appointed day of our death there will be no more chances. The decision we have made here on earth will affect where we will spend the rest of eternity. The day of redemption, therefore, is now! Our prayer is that you have been cleansed and set free by the blood of Christ, so that you can have membership in this community and serve Him faithfully until He calls you home.

Key
Question

What does it mean to be redeemed in Christ?

Ephesians 1:7-8a

REDEMPTION IN THE BLOOD:

Last week, we began our study of Ephesians by observing three spiritual blessings which God has graciously given us as His children; in Christ, we are: 1) chosen to be *sanctified*, 2) adopted as *sons*, and 3) accepted by the *Savior*. This week, Paul continues to describe four more blessings which we have in Christ: 1) *redemption* in the blood, 2) *revelation* of God's will, 3) *reception* of an inheritance, and 4) *reassurance* in the Spirit. First, God blesses us spiritually by redeeming us and setting us free from the clutches of sin through the sacrificial death of "the Beloved" (Christ). To be redeemed simply means that we have been bought with a price and "made accepted in" Christ (v. 6b). Recall from last week that according to God's grace "He made us accepted." In verse 7, consequently, Paul describes the process through which we have become "accepted": **we obtain redemption through Christ's blood** (i.e. His death). Although **redemption** is technically free on our end because of God's grace directed toward us, it actually required a high price for Jesus who gave His very life so that we could have forgiveness and be "accepted" by God; therefore, it cost Jesus everything!

How can we know that we have been redeemed?

Question
1

In *The Glorious Grace of God Unveiled*, Glenn Clifton relates a story once told by Paul Lee Tan about a pastor in Boston. One day as he stood outside the sanctuary, this pastor noticed a young boy walking down the street with a rusty birdcage in hand with two birds fluttering and flapping, desperately trying to escape their tiny prison. Stopping the boy, the pastor asked where he had gotten these two birds. Without hesitation, the lad explained that he had snared them in a field outside of town. So, the pastor continued to inquire about the plans that the boy had for them. Immediately, the boy chirped that he planned to play with them a little while and then feed them to the cat that frequented his



Instruct

neighborhood. Upon hearing this, the pastor offered to purchase them from the boy at \$2.00. In shock, the boy protested, “Sir, you don’t want them; they’re worthless. They can’t even sing very well.” Nonetheless, the minister insisted, so the boy finally sold him the rusty cage along with its occupants for \$2.00.

As the boy went on his way, the pastor took the rusty birdcage behind the sanctuary, opened the door, and set the birds free from certain death. He had purchased them to set them free! That next Sunday the empty cage sat on the pulpit as a reminder of how Jesus came to redeem us and free us from slavery to sin, so that we might have eternal life in Him rather than continue down the path which leads to eternal destruction. The boy didn’t see the value in these two birds; they were simply something with which he could play and have fun, but were otherwise totally meaningless to him because they had no special ability. Praise the Lord, however, that He sees value in us and He sent His Son to pay the price to set us free—not because we are worthy in ourselves, but because we have untold worth to Him. God saw the value in us as His creation, so He sent a Redeemer to set us free from the bondage of sin and enable us to have a victorious and abundant life in Him!

In what ways does God demonstrate how much value He sees in us?

Question
2

Paul further qualifies **redemption** by explaining that it results in **the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of God’s grace** (v. 7b). The word **forgiveness** in this



context carries the connotation of being released or freed from one’s **sins** and made alive in Christ. In the past, for example, many of us may have entered a contract with a cell phone company or cable provider. To be “released” from our obligations before the end of the contractual period, we would pay hefty fines and penalties which most of us couldn’t afford;

therefore, we became stuck in the contract! Recently, however, some major companies

have begun to “buy out” our contracts and pay the associated fees, releasing us from any debt and obligation to the former company. They redeemed us and freed us to have new service by paying the debt that we owed.

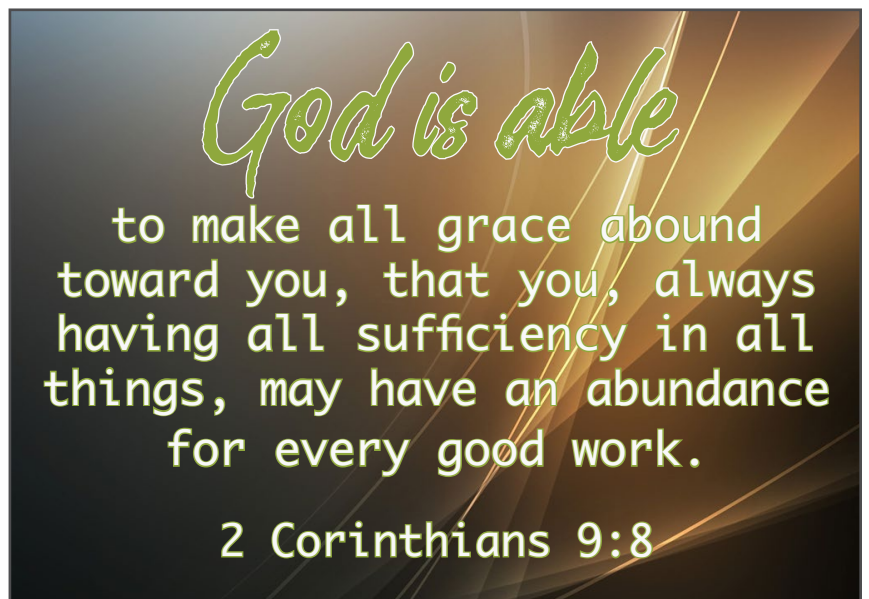
Because of His **grace**, Jesus “bought out” our contract which “released” us from the bondage of sin, ending in the penalty of death. Technically, we can’t claim the debt was “forgiven” in the sense of being canceled without payment, but rather it means that we have been “released” from enslavement to sin because someone else paid the debt for us! Instead of being slaves to sin, we have now been adopted as God’s children who should seek to live holy and blameless lives in Him ([Eph 1:4-5](#)). Because sin no longer has a hold on us, therefore, we should serve our Lord and Savior faithfully ([Rom 6:14](#)). Although we may at times still struggle with sin, we should allow Christ to transform us continually so that we live a life of faith and obedience rather than one of habitual and unrepentant sin.

In v. 8a, Paul continues to emphasize how God **made His grace abound toward us** through this act of **redemption**

and **forgiveness**. Because of His love for us, God gave graciously and generously; He sent His very best! From the foundation of the world, God had planned all along to send His Son as the ultimate act of grace which would overcome sin through His perfect sacrifice.

He was not stingy in **His grace**, but gave abundantly even beyond that

which we could fathom or imagine with our finite minds. Through Christ, God has set a precedent that we should seek to follow. In the same way, we ought to give the Lord our very best by completely devoting ourselves to Him and making Him the priority in our lives. When we do, we will treat others graciously and generously, so that they might see Christ working through us and respond to His invitation to salvation.



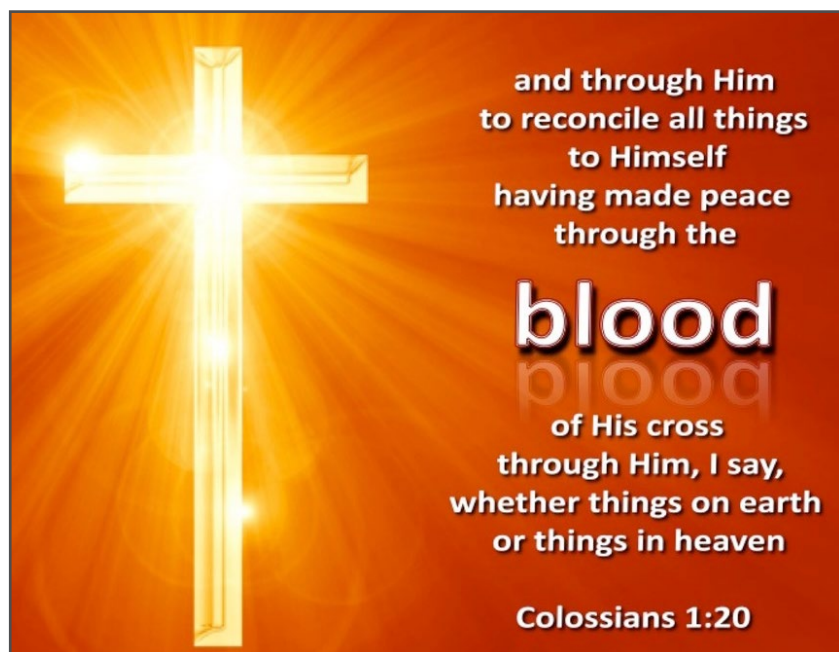
In what ways have you seen the abundance of God’s grace in your life? How do you show God’s grace to others?

Question
3

Ephesians 1:8b-10

REVELATION OF HIS WILL:

Next, Paul demonstrates God's desire to communicate clearly with us, so that we may know **His will**. Thus, God **has made known to us the mystery of His will in all wisdom and** understanding (vv. 8b-9a). Through Scripture, He has revealed to us His character and nature, His divine plan for His creation, and the way in which we should live in Christ to have an abundant life. God doesn't keep us guessing by hiding His plan in cryptic codes and messages which only a few can understand, but rather He speaks simply and plainly so that even a child can respond. Moreover, God has revealed to us what He has planned to do and what He is doing now so that we can join Him! He doesn't take pleasure in frustrating our plans and philosophies, but He wants us to submit to Him so that He can order our steps and guide us appropriately. Problems arise, however, when we rely on our own **wisdom** and understanding because we tend to obscure God's plan and rely on our own strength and ability rather than His! Through God's revelation to us, we see how He wants to be intimately involved in our lives. The Lord isn't distant, unconcerned, or inaccessible, but He has revealed Himself **according to His good pleasure** which He planned purposefully (v. 9b). In this context, God has purposefully revealed the gospel (i.e. **mystery**) to us because



of His goodness and kindness (i.e. **good pleasure**). Therefore, **the mystery of God's will** refers to the relationship established in Christ whereby two different groups—that is the Jews and Gentiles—can be reconciled through His **blood** and joined together in one community which receives the same benefits and privileges as being joint-heirs together (see [Eph 3:3-9](#)). As a result, **mystery** doesn't signify something

hidden from view, but rather something difficult to understand in terms of how Christ can take two very different groups of people and unite them together, offering them

salvation and eternal life despite their sins.

Why is it important to understand how God has communicated clearly to us through Scripture?

Question
4

In-Depth Information



To further understand how the term **mystery** functions in this context, let's appeal to another example: the virgin birth. God clearly communicated to Mary what would happen, but in human retrospect it seems impossible; for this reason, Mary even questioned how it could be since she had never known a man. Although we may not know the scientific explanation or exactly how it occurred other than God did it, we do know that the event occurred just as God said! **Mystery** functions much the same way in this passage; God's **will** is not hidden, but we may not fully comprehend the scope of it at times.

As Paul continues, he further explains the context of this **mystery** whereby God **might gather together in one all things in Christ both in heaven and on earth** (v. 10). Again, this makes it clear that God offers redemption and forgiveness to the entire world—that is everyone who will accept the free gift. Yet, this not only refers to the act of salvation that Christ accomplished through the cross, but it looks forward to the inheritance of eternal life we will one day receive when He returns to bring this era of human history to a close and fully establish His kingdom. At the right time according to His plan (i.e. in the **fullness of times**), God will orchestrate (i.e. **dispensation**) the culmination of His plan by sending His Son to gather His bride—the church—to spend eternity worshiping and praising Him **in heaven** together with people from every nationality, language, and background.

In-Depth Information



The term translated **dispensation** comes from the Greek word which means stewardship or management of a household. In this way, God manages the people of His household (the church / believers) by orchestrating His divine plan and bringing it to a conclusion.

How do we see God at work in the world currently? Why should we be ready for His return at any minute?

Question
5

Ephesians 1:11-13a

RECEPTION OF AN INHERITANCE:

Not only has the Lord revealed **His will** to us, but He has also given us an extraordinary **inheritance** in Christ (v. 11). Usually, when we think of our **inheritance**, we focus on the eternal life that we have received, but it actually entails so much more! As verse 11 opens, Paul reminds us that we have been appointed to a specific task in Christ—to “be holy and without blame” ([Eph 1:4](#)). Literally, the phrase translated **we have obtained an inheritance** means “we were appointed” or “chosen” and actually comes from the word “to choose by casting lots.” Thus, when joined with the concept of **being**

**I HAVE BEEN
CRUCIFIED
WITH CHRIST
IT IS NO LONGER
I WHO LIVE
BUT CHRIST
WHO LIVES IN ME
AND THE LIFE I
NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH
I LIVE BY FAITH
IN THE SON OF GOD
WHO LOVED ME
AND GAVE HIMSELF
FOR ME**

GALATIANS 2:20

predestined to the purpose of Him it refers to our transformed character in which we should “be holy and without blame.” God, therefore, in Christ has called us to be set apart for the specific purpose of being His holy ambassadors.

Consequently, part of our **inheritance** is the transformation of our character to become more like that of our heavenly Father. Other passages in Scripture note that we will receive a “new name” and become a “new creation” which reflects our status as His children and allows us to represent His character and nature to the rest of the world ([Isa 56:5](#); [Rev 3:12](#)). For example, Isaiah writes, “The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a *new name*, which the mouth of the Lord will name.” That “new name” is child of

God and follower of Christ (i.e. “Christian”) and the life we now live should reflect His presence in our lives and His holy character ([Acts 11:26](#); [Gal 2:20](#)). Therefore, we have an awesome privilege and responsibility as joint-heirs with Christ in portraying a positive image of our heavenly Father.

In what way does the transformation of our character represent part of our inheritance?

Question
6

Next, Paul outlines how God’s divine plan through which He **works all things according to the counsel of His will** came to fruition in those **who first trusted in Christ to the praise of His glory** (vv. 11b-12). The term counsel here simply means “purpose”; God had a plan and purpose to bring salvation to the world through Israel (i.e. **who first trusted**). In short, God’s covenant and promise to Abraham would ultimately be fulfilled through the coming of the Messiah who would be a blessing to all the nations (see [Gen 22:18](#)). Indeed, Israel had a special purpose in God’s plan, but it wasn’t automatically to receive salvation because of their physical heritage; rather, God would use His people to draw the entire world to Him and be the catalyst for the coming Messiah who would offer **redemption** to all.

Through Israel and the faithfulness of His people, God would receive **praise** for the greatest gift ever offered which would be free to all men—Jew or Gentile! For this reason, **salvation** came through Israel to the Gentiles and they too **trusted** in Christ **after hearing the word of truth**—further clarified and explained as **the gospel of their salvation** (v. 13a). Again, the language that Paul applies here focuses on people groups—not individuals. Through those who believed and **trusted** the Lord, God sent the Messiah to grant the same **inheritance** to both Jew and Gentile by making them His children (see [John 1:12](#)). Through those who **trusted** Him and had a relationship with His Son, God impacted the world through the proclamation of the **truth** which narrates that the only way we can have eternal life—whether Jew or Gentile—is through the death and resurrection of Jesus whereby we confess our sins and surrender to Him (see [John 14:6](#)).

Why is it important to see our inheritance according to what God has done in and through His people throughout history?

Question
7

Ephesians 1:13b-14

REASSURANCE IN THE SPIRIT:

As Paul closes this section, he describes our greatest **inheritance** whereby those who believed have been **sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise** (v. 13b). Immediately when we invite Christ to assume control of our lives on the day of our **salvation**, the **Holy Spirit** comes to dwell within us as a reminder to whom we belong! As a **guarantee of our inheritance**, the Spirit reassures us of the **promise of redemption** that awaits us at the end of this life (v. 14). When we are **sealed** by the Holy Spirit, He

Instruct

marks us as a child of God and verifies our relationship with Him as genuine. In this way, the seal indicates that we have authentic life found through our relationship with Christ. To help us better understand the concept of the seal, think of some of



the countermeasures on US currency that identify it as genuine. In recent years, the government has added watermarks on the currency along with security strips embedded within certain

denominations to prevent counterfeiting. The seal, consequently, indicates that the money is genuine and backed by the US Treasury. In the same way, the seal of the Holy Spirit indicates that we are genuine children of God and backed by His **guarantee** of eternal life through the **redemption** offered by Christ.

Not only does the Spirit serve as a seal indicating genuineness, but He also serves as a **guarantee** which assures us of an **inheritance** to come. Through His redemption, Christ has purchased us as God's possession; He brought us out of sin and depravation and made us a special treasure unto the Lord ([Exod 19:5-6](#); [1 Peter 2:9](#)). Through Him, we have an **inheritance** of eternal life spent with our Father in heaven. Although the Holy Spirit will transform our character, conform us to the image of Christ, and guide us in all situations, the emphasis in this passage lies on reassurance. We can be confident that we have eternal life in Christ because the Spirit who resides within us provides evidence of our **salvation** and offers a **guarantee**. The guarantee doesn't depend upon what we can do ourselves, but what God through Christ has already done for us. His promise and guarantee will not fail! As a result, Paul ends where he began this section with **the praise of** the Lord's **glory**. Therefore, let us also be thankful of "every spiritual blessing" and offer our genuine and heart-felt **praise** unto the Lord for the grace and mercy which He has benevolently shown us.

In what ways does the Holy Spirit reassure us of the promise of redemption and salvation through Christ?

Question
8

As we close this first section of study in the book of Ephesians, we should have seen a number of spiritual blessings for which we ought to direct our praise toward the Father. We have a heavenly Father who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem and restore a wayward creation which transgressed the boundaries He had established, thereby bringing sin and ruination into the world. God was not caught off guard, but had a plan and purpose to call to Himself a people who trusted Him implicitly and lived faithfully according to His will. Through this people, He would bring salvation to all people by sending the Messiah into the world as a sacrifice which would pay the penalty of sin and remove His wrath so that we might have an inheritance whereby we are transformed in Him to be holy and without blame. We can be confident in this inheritance because we have been sealed with His Spirit and marked as His child who will live forever with Him in heaven.

As a community, we have a grand inheritance along with a distinctive responsibility to live worthy of our calling ([Eph 4:1](#)). As we gather as a community in 2019, let us not take for granted our inheritance and become complacent in our praise and duties. Let us, therefore, continue to praise the Lord and make His name great for “every spiritual blessing” He has bestowed upon us. Let us not get into a routine, satisfied with what we have in Christ, but let us strive to mature and grow together as His people. Because the Holy Spirit indwells us, we can live confidently according to His plan and purpose and not fear any reprisal from society. We should be His ambassadors who represent Him boldly by sharing the gospel and reflecting His holy character. As a community, we’ve been given a great inheritance, but with that great inheritance comes great responsibility. Praise God that He has equipped us for such a time as this where we will collectively see the awesome works He will do through us as His people this year and for years to come as long as He may delay His return!

Incorporate

What are ways that we as a community can share the redemption offered by Christ?

What is our inheritance in Christ as a community? What responsibilities do we have as a community because of this gracious and generous inheritance?

Why can we as a community be confident about our inheritance in Christ? How should we live as a result of this confidence?

Journal: Document God's Work

January 20, 2019



Called to Comprehend our Inheritance

Ephesians 1:15-23

Focal Verse:

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."

Ephesians 1:18

[back to
Table of
Contents](#)

Introduce

As Munn E. Baggs went to collect the mail from his mailbox one day, he discovered an official letter from one of the local attorney's offices. Wondering what it could be, he carefully ran a letter opener along the top of the envelope and extracted its contents. As he read, the letter began by expressing condolences upon the passing of a distant relative. It continued to describe how his relative had included him in his will and outlined the inheritance he would receive. Vaguely, Munn recalled meeting his relative briefly a few years back, but he never really developed an ongoing relationship with him. For some reason, his relative still left him a substantial amount of money and property for which Munn was elated.

Munn E. Baggs never really thought about the value of his inheritance nor did he truly miss his distant relative. He

merely focused on the new-found money he had received and how he would spend it. Although he had inherited quite a bit, the IRS soon sent a letter giving him instructions on how to file and pay all the associated taxes. After paying all the taxes, he still had quite a bit of money, but he never really invested it or spent it wisely.



Instead, he blew through it rather rapidly until he had used the last dime—even being forced to sell the property to pay his outstanding debts. Just as quickly as he had received the inheritance, it vanished.

One day, however, Munn E. Baggs began to ponder the value of his inheritance. As he thought, he came to the realization that the real value would have been in knowing his relative more personally and intimately. Long after the money and property were gone, he would have at least had memories that would never fade. Money is fleeting, but a relationship lasts forever. Although he was grateful for his inheritance, he lamented that he never took the time to know his relative better. As he began to evaluate the circumstances, Munn E. Baggs realized he had misplaced priorities; sure, he was busy, but he wasn't *that* busy. He had just used that as an excuse to rationalize why he never took the time to get to know his relative. He also realized that apathy had prevented

Introduce

him from getting to know him better; he just wasn't *that* concerned. As he pondered everything, he would have given anything to go back and spend time with his relative and develop a strong and lasting bond.

In Christ, we have received an inheritance beyond compare; its worth is more than material wealth and its benefits last forever. Certainly, we ought to be grateful for the eternal life which Christ has provided for us and the status He has granted us as children, but the real value of our inheritance lies in knowing Him! Therefore, our inheritance centers around our relationship with our heavenly Father through Jesus Christ. For this reason, Paul writes, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge *of Him*" ([Eph 1:17](#)). I pray that we won't look back at our lives like Munn E. Baggs and regret a missed opportunity to know Christ more intimately along with the surpassing value of our inheritance in a daily relationship with Him through prayer, Scripture, and edifying fellowship with other believers. As a community of believers, may we seize the opportunity to know Christ more intimately and treasure the relationship He has granted us here on earth that will continue in heaven for eternity.

Key
Question

Why is our inheritance in Christ so valuable?

Ephesians 1:15-16

ACKNOWLEDGE THE LORD IN CELEBRATION:

After his long introductory thanksgiving to the Lord for “every spiritual blessing,” Paul embarks upon a journey of prayer in which he **thanks** the Lord for the Ephesians’ **faith** and **love** (v. 15). In [verse 13a](#), Paul had already acknowledged that they had “trusted in” Christ after they “heard the word of truth, the gospel of salvation.” Now, he offers **thanks** to the Lord having **heard of their faith in the Lord Jesus** as well as their **love for all the saints** (v. 16). Having been “sealed with the Spirit,” the Ephesians demonstrate their relationship with Christ in two primary ways: their faithfulness and their **love**. When he speaks of their **faith**, Paul is not primarily referring to their initial salvation experience in which they believed in Jesus, but rather to their continued faithfulness which demonstrates that He is the Lord of their lives. After spending approximately two-and-a-half years in Ephesus, Paul had an intimate relationship with them and had seen many come to a relationship with Christ, but now as he sits in a Roman prison he has **heard** of their continued faithfulness in serving the Lord. When we allow the Spirit to guide our lives and work through us to God’s glory, He will enable us to be faithful in many ways. First, we will be faithful to maintain correct doctrine in God’s Word both in how we teach it with integrity and how we live by its principles and apply them in our lives. Although some in Ephesus went astray by teaching heretical doctrine later, Paul urged them to remain faithful by teaching and proclaiming the gospel unadulterated ([1 Tim 1:18-20; 4:12-16](#)). Second, we will be faithful to live in obedience and maintain a good character which honors the Lord by exercising integrity and righteousness ([Eph 4:22-24](#)). Third, we will be faithful to our calling by using the spiritual gifts which God has given us to honor Him and advance His kingdom ([Eph 4:7-16](#)). Finally, we will serve God faithfully, give generously, and spread the gospel



*Take heed
to yourself and to the
doctrine. Continue in them,
for in doing this you will
save both yourself and
those who hear you.
1 Timothy 4:16*

through evangelism and missions. When we have a relationship with Christ, these areas of faithfulness flow naturally and become our nature when we humbly submit to Him.

What does a faithful life in Christ look like?

Question
1

Love for all the saints also originates from our relationship with the Lord and identifies us as His children. For instance, Jesus states, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” ([John 13:35](#)). Although some people can



feign love and pretend for false pretenses, the genuine **love** Christ has for us should flow through us and enable us to **love** others—specifically in the context of Ephesians, **the saints** or other believers. Paul’s remarks don’t preclude us from loving those outside of Christ, but it serves to highlight Jesus’ teaching and the

importance of showing **love** to those within the community. If we cannot **love** one another and contentiously argue and hate just like the world, why would anyone want to be part of that type of community? They already face that kind of mentality and opposition within the world on a daily basis. However, as believers, we should exude the same supernatural **love** which Christ has first shown us. Consequently, we can **love** others in that same way because God “first loved us” ([1 John 4:19](#)).

Although Paul doesn’t specify exactly in what ways that the Ephesians showed **love** to one another, we can discuss how we ought to demonstrate our **love for all the saints** in a variety of practical ways through which we can honor our Lord and Savior. When we think of showing **love**, we tend to focus on performing acts of kindness, meeting other’s needs, and serving generously and graciously, but genuine **love** entails so much more! For example, we manifest **love** through companionship whereby we listen when people need someone to whom they can talk. We don’t always have to offer advice or help resolve problems; sometimes we just need to listen. We just need to be there for them when they need a friend the most. At other times, however, we can offer advice, but our advice must always be based upon Scripture! Helping others to mature in the

Lord is actually one of the greatest demonstrations of **love** in which we could engage. Moreover, we also display **love** by interceding for others through prayer; we certainly should pray for their needs, but we should also pray that they find strength in the Lord and that they seek Him daily and grow in their faith. Genuine **love** for other believers comes in a variety of forms from encouragement, comfort, forgiveness / restoration to even discipline / correction when someone goes astray. Therefore, **love** isn't simply an emotion or response to someone who likes us, but it's a state of being; it's who we are in Christ; it's the very essence of our salvation. As Scripture teaches, **love** separates us from the rest of the world which has a distorted view of what **love** entails. As believers, therefore, let us display **love** and faithfulness in everything we do as a testament to the One to whom we belong and whom we serve!

In what other ways can we show our love to other believers?

Question
2

As a result of their faithfulness and **love**, Paul continually **makes mention of** the Ephesians **in his prayers** and never fails **to give thanks** for what God is doing through them (v. 16). Paul will pray for them more specifically in the following verses, but here he pauses to direct his praise to the Lord. His prayers for the Ephesians flow from his gratitude in how God has transformed them from death to life which has become evident in how they conduct their lives. We too ought to praise the Lord for what He has done and is doing in the lives of other believers. We should rejoice when people in the community respond to the gospel and allow God to conform their character to His. Too often, we may complain about others in the community and focus on areas of disagreement, but instead we must see what God is actively doing in their lives and give Him the praise! It will serve as both an encouragement and a reminder to everyone that we should submit to the Lord and display our **faith and love** as a testimony to Him.

Ephesians 1:17-18a

KNOW CHRIST INTIMATELY:

After giving thanks to the Lord for the Ephesians, Paul now turns to intercede for them. He prays that **the God of our Lord Jesus Christ** would **give to them the spirit of wisdom** and **revelation in the knowledge of Him** (v. 17). Although we ought to pray for discernment and **wisdom** in situations which we face in life, here it emphasizes that we ought to seek to know Christ intimately. If we're not careful when we read this

Instruct

passage, we will miss the intent. Paul isn't praying for general **wisdom** and **knowledge**, but the **wisdom** and **revelation** of the Lord—that is knowing Christ intimately and developing our relationship with Him. Therefore, Paul prays for the Ephesians to have **knowledge** in three specific areas: of *Christ*, of His *calling*, and of God's *control*.

We live in a society that has a rather cavalier definition of friendship—in particular with the rise of social media whereby one can add numerous “friends” and “followers” with the click of a button in the isolation of one's home. Yet, in many instances, these so-called “friends” function as nothing more than mere acquaintances. In reality, they know little about each other except some major details; they rarely communicate and even more infrequently do they spend meaningful time together. Unfortunately, many people today treat Jesus like such a “friend” on social media. They claim to have a relationship with Him, but they don't know Him intimately—just like Munn E. Baggs and his relative highlighted in the introduction. They don't spend time in prayer and Bible study; they don't seek to know His will and to imitate His character in their lives. Jesus has become a mere acquaintance when He should be the Lord of our lives and our most-intimate friend!

In what ways should we seek to know Jesus more intimately?

Question
3

Knowing someone intimately requires a life-long pursuit through a daily relationship



Unfortunately, this picture represents many couples in today's world that spend more time on their interests (i.e. cell phones) rather than communicating with each other.

that has meaningful interaction and conversation. Marriage can serve as a good example—which is how Paul also describes the relationship between Christ and the church ([Eph 5:25-33](#)). In the initial stage of the relationship, whether dating or even during the first few years of marriage, the couple usually spends time getting to know the general likes and dislikes of the other person.

As the years pass, however, the spouse would likely begin to anticipate how the other

would respond in a certain situation. They may not metaphorically be able to finish each other's sentences all the time, but they still have a good grasp of what the other person is thinking. Eventually, the couple will begin to act and think alike in terms of functioning in unity as God intended. If the couple doesn't progress in this way, it likely means that they haven't spent time investing in each other to know one another intimately and God may not be the center of their relationship. Problems, therefore, will abound if the couple never has deep, intimate conversations or talks openly about their past experiences and seeks God as priority above everything else.

In the same way, we need to have an intimate relationship with Christ—not just in the sense of knowing what He thinks in certain situations, but in that we adopt His perspective and apply His teaching in our lives to become more like Him each day. To do so, we need to spend quality time with the Lord! God already knows us intimately; He knows everything about us, but He has invited us to know Him intimately through His Word. Through Scripture, God has revealed His character to us along with His plan to restore us into a relationship with Him through His Son. In addition, God has revealed His expectations of us, the boundaries that He has set for us, and the consequences for both obedience and disobedience. We can know Christ intimately both through His active work in our lives and through fellowship with other believers, but what we claim we experience from God must match His character in His Word. Our first priority as believers, therefore, must be to know Christ and seek wisdom and knowledge of His character and perspective and devote ourselves to become more like Him each day.

How does an intimate relationship with Christ look in our lives?

Question
4

In verse 18a, Paul borrows a phrase from Psalm 19:8 to emphasize that an essential part of knowing Christ is also knowing His purpose and plan; thus, we are **enlightened in the eyes of our understanding**. In a more modern way, Paul declares that we have spiritual insight into God's purposes and character which he has already outlined in [1:3-13](#). The passive voice **being enlightened** signifies that this spiritual insight comes from the Lord; He alone is the source! When we know His plan and purpose, we have insight into His character and personality through Scripture; as God is holy, just, and without blame, we also ought to strive to imitate that same character ([Eph 1:4](#)). [Psalm 19:8](#) states, "The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment

Instruct

of the Lord is pure, *enlightening the eyes.*” Throughout history, God has clearly revealed Himself to us through His prophets, through His Word, and finally through His Son. We can know who God is and how we ought to live because He has shown us and given us a living example in Christ whom we can follow!

Ephesians 1:18b-20a

KNOW THE GREATNESS OF HIS CALLING:

When we have an intimate relationship with Christ, we will begin to understand the significance of **the hope of His calling** and **the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints** (v. 18b). Notice that Paul speaks about **the hope of His calling** and **His inheritance** rather than *our calling* and *our inheritance*. This serves to remind us that God initiates the **calling** and covenant with us—just like He did with Abraham and all the Old Testament patriarchs and leaders. In fact, the psalmist writes, “For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel as His special treasure ([Psalm 135:4](#); [Exod 19:5](#)).



According to His abundant grace, God has called us to share in **the inheritance** of His Son; therefore, this **calling** leads to a life which conquers death. As a result, we have assurance (that is **hope**) in **His calling** because Christ has already paved the way for us to have this life by redeeming us through “His blood” and defeating death in His resurrection ([Eph 1:7](#)).

Consequently, the significance of **His calling** and **inheritance** stems from His grace to provide something incomparable and priceless which we don’t deserve and which we could never earn.

Why should we see the calling and inheritance in terms of what God has done for us through Christ?

Question
5

As part of Christ’s **calling** and **inheritance**, Paul explains that those of **us who believe**

will experience **His exceeding greatness** and the **working of His mighty power** through His resurrection **from the dead** (vv. 19-20a). The phrase **He raised Him from the dead** literally means **He raised Him from the dead** ones (plural) and is quite an unusual expression in Paul because he wishes to emphasize our participation in His resurrection. Therefore, the plural “dead ones” indicates that Jesus’ resurrection is the first in the line of many for those **who believe** and serves as a reminder that God will faithfully fulfill His promise to give us eternal life ([Col 1:18](#); [Rev 1:5](#)). Consequently, the primary way that we share in **His calling** and **inheritance** is by being raised from the dead into a new life. Praise be to the Lord for such a magnificent and unfathomable gift whereby He has made us His children and heirs, sharing with us the same **inheritance** granted to His Son!

We must constantly keep the significance of **His inheritance** at the forefront of our minds and the focus of our praise. Often, however, people take for granted the things for which they do not earn or for which they do not pay for themselves. Several years ago, I knew of someone who graciously lent his car to a person who did not have

reliable transportation to work. He didn’t charge the man anything nor did he even give him a date which he had to return it. When the man eventually returned the car, it had been run into the ground—the engine had nearly been burned because the oil was almost empty, the transmission was completely shot, and the brakes were completely worn in



addition to all of the other routine maintenance issues left undone. The man didn’t respect or value the car; he simply used it as if he were owed and deserved it. He didn’t value the sacrifice that the person had made who had lent it to Him in the first place. When we regard **the inheritance** He has given us as “ours” rather than “His,” we tend to forget the value of the sacrifice that Christ made for us. We have all the rights and privileges as sons and daughters of the King, but we can’t lose sight of who paid for us to receive those benefits. Because of what Christ has done, the power of sin and death no longer have a hold over us and have been rendered powerless through Christ ([Rom 6:9](#); [1 Cor 15:26](#)). We owe Him everything, for without Him we would be without hope

Instruct

and power ([1 Cor 15:19](#)). Yet, God in His glorious **wisdom** and **power** offered us a share **in His inheritance** because He loves us so much and desires an intimate relationship with us. Let us continually praise Him because He allowed us to share in **His calling** and **inheritance!**

How can we recognize the value of the inheritance which God has so graciously lavished upon us and remember to praise Him for it?

Question
6

Ephesians 1:20b-23

KNOW THE EXTENT OF HIS CONTROL:

Despite allowing us to share in **His inheritance** and participate in His resurrection, Christ's majesty and authority far exceeds our own and He remains sovereign over the entire universe. In the last three verses, Paul describes how Jesus is sovereign over all *creation*, every *creature*, and the *church*. Upon His resurrection, God **seated** Christ **at His right hand in the heavenly places** as an acknowledgment of His power and authority over all *creation*, especially the spiritual forces which conspired to destroy Him: **all principality, power, might, and dominion** (vv. 20b-21). These four synonyms simply show that Jesus exercises control over all creation and nothing has power and might which can match Him. Second, Paul notes that Jesus is sovereign over every *creature*: **every name that is named—not only in this age, but the one to come**. At the beginning Adam named every creature whom God brought to Him ([Gen 2:19-20](#)) and each one of us has a name and will receive a new name in the age to come ([Isa 62:2](#)), so this indicates that Christ has authority over us all. Whether we have accepted His gift and surrendered our lives to Him or we have rejected Him, we will one day acknowledge His power and authority ([Phil 2:9-11](#)).

How does Christ demonstrate or exercise authority over creation?

Question
7

To underscore His point, Paul asserts that God **put all things under subjection to** Christ's **feet** ([Psalm 110:1](#)), including the *church* (vv. 22-23). Although we have been made joint-heirs with Christ, we are still subject to His authority and dependent upon His guidance and provision. Christ has indeed established human leadership in **the**

church and imbued them with responsibility for leading, but He remains the head and determines the direction in which **the body** should go. Therefore, the priority of both leadership and laity within **the church** is to seek God as a whole and function as He desires so that He can make **the body** grow and add people to His kingdom. When **the church** seeks God first, there won't be a power-struggle or division, but everyone will be unified with a single purpose—looking to Christ as the one who supplies their ability. Let us, therefore, as the people of God who have received such an extraordinary **inheritance** in Him praise Him for our blessings and submit ourselves to serve as His children in a way that honors and glorifies Him.

In what ways does Christ function as the head of the church?

Question
8

As Munn E. Baggs looked back on his life after receiving that generous inheritance from a relative he barely knew, he was filled with regret and remorse because he should have spent more time with him and gotten to know him better before he passed. Fortunately, however, we don't have to feel remorse and regret like Munn even if we haven't spent time each day knowing our Savior more intimately because we can start today! We serve a risen Savior who invites us to know Him intimately! It's not too late. All we must do is seize the opportunity. If we have never confessed our sins and turned from them, then today is the day that we can begin a relationship with Christ and experience the surpassing greatness of His power and resurrection. If we have a relationship with Christ, but we haven't truly seized the opportunity to spend time with Him daily, today we can actively seek to know Him more intimately.

God has provided us with the opportunity to know Him better in both private and corporate settings. In private, pray daily, have a meaningful quiet time reading, studying, and meditating on God's Word, and seek to conform your life to Christ's example. Corporately, God has given us a community here at FBCFW which will help us grow in our faith while we jointly give praise and glory to our Savior. We shouldn't forsake meeting together because of busyness, but we should meet weekly in worship to be strengthened and encouraged. Moreover, we should attend Bible studies, small groups, and fellowship with other believers. In doing so, we will maintain our focus on Christ and the inheritance we have in Him and we will submit to His leadership in our lives so that we might be in the center of His will. As we go through 2019, let's seek the Lord, remember His sacrifice, proclaim His greatness, and model His goodness and holiness in our lives as His people!

Incorporate

Using Scripture, how would you describe God's inheritance which He shares with us?

In what ways should we seek to know Christ more intimately? How will this help with our relationships to others in both the church and the secular community?

How have you surrendered to Christ's control in your life? In what areas do you need to be more surrendered to His control?

January 27, 2019



GRACE

*Consecrated by
God's Grace
Ephesians 2:1-10*

Focal Verse:

"Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)."

[back to
Table of
Contents](#)

Ephesians 2:5

Introduce

A few years ago, I heard a story about a pastor who went to a small, old-fashioned barbershop for a haircut. Over the years, this barber had acquired the gift of gab as a means to engage his customers and entertain them while they sat in the chair. Dealing with many customers who did not talk, the aging barber had learned to compensate by having a non-stop, one-sided conversation. After calling the pastor to the chair and questioning him about the style of haircut he desired, the barber began his long monologue complete with local gossip and a detailed history of the community.



Although the barber was a kindly man, the pastor felt led to share the gospel with him, but the barber continued speaking without even a pause. The pastor didn't want to seem rude and interrupt the conversation, so he continued to wait for an opportune time.

Finally, as the haircut ended, the barber asked for payment which led to a momentary lull in the conversation. Seizing the opportunity, the pastor bluntly asked, "Do you consider yourself a good man?" Although a bit bewildered, the barber replied, "Well, yes, I do." Continuing this line of questioning, the pastor inquired, "Do you believe in God?" To which he responded, "Yes." "So, tell me," the pastor continued, "Would you go to heaven if you died today?" Again, he responded with a curt, "Yes." This prompted the pastor to follow up by asking, "Why would you get to go to heaven?" "Because I'm a good man," the barber declared triumphantly.

At that moment, the pastor oddly stopped the conversation and pointed out the barber's own need for a haircut. Sheepishly, the barber acknowledged he was right and admitted that he had been too busy and hadn't had time. After handing the barber his money, the pastor announced, "You're in luck because I have a little time and I can cut your hair for you." The barber quickly objected, "But you're not trained! You can't do it." The pastor tried to calm his fears by reassuring him that he would do the very best job that he could to cut his hair. Sternly looking at the pastor, the barber declared, "Your best simply isn't good enough! It must be done right!" Smiling, the pastor said, "That's

Introduce

right. More importantly, trying to be the best person you can be isn't good enough to get you into heaven either."

From this simple illustration, we can learn a profound biblical truth outlined by Paul in Ephesians 2:1-10. Although we are dead in our sins and trespasses, we can't save ourselves. Nothing we do can merit eternal life. The only way we can have life is through God's grace demonstrated through His Son whose shed blood on the cross can make us alive! Man has always tried to make salvation more difficult than it actually is by adding works and rituals, but through Paul God has made it clear: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Eph 2:8). Praise God we have a Savior who paid our penalty, offered us salvation freely, and desires to have a personal relationship with us daily.

Key
Question

Why is it important to view salvation as a gift?

Ephesians 2:1-3

THE REALIZATION OF OUR CONDITION:

After explaining the “spiritual blessing” of salvation through the blood of Christ offered to all (1:3-14), Paul relates how we can experience that salvation individually and move from death to life. To understand our need for salvation, we must first acknowledge that we have a problem which we cannot resolve on our own. This requires that we recognize the sinful condition in which we live. For this reason, Paul reminds the Ephesians of the life they once lived apart from the Lord which only led down a path of destruction. Literally, he writes: **“and you being dead in trespasses and sins in which you once walked according to the course of this world”** (vv. 1-2a). The first step in salvation, therefore, is to admit that we have sinned and realize that we are responsible for the choices that we have made which ultimately lead to death and destruction. When we understand the concept of sin and disobedience, we can respond according to the plan outlined in Scripture to turn from our sin and trust Christ.

If we don't recognize that a problem exists, however, then we can't take steps to rectify it. On December 15, 1967 during the evening rush hour, a bridge spanning the Ohio River linking West Virginia with Ohio suddenly collapsed, killing forty-six people as their vehicles plummeted into the river many feet below. No one using the bridge perceived there was any problem and it even caught engineers by surprise as a hair-line fracture in one of the eyebars connecting the suspension cables to the bridge deck was barely



visible to the naked eye. A crack less than 0.1 inches in depth caused the entire bridge to fail catastrophically. If people had been aware of the problem and understood the ultimate consequences of the crack, they most certainly would have taken steps to repair it. The authorities could have closed the bridge to vehicular traffic and engineers and contractors could have replaced or repaired the defective piece without anyone

meeting their demise.

Just as with the bridge, people who fail to recognize the problem created by their sin are in mortal danger of eternal destruction and separation from God. The danger of sin is obscured because everyone chooses to follow the pattern (i.e. **course**) of this world and their choice to participate in sin seems “normal.” Because sin has become so commonplace, many people may not even recognize that what they are doing is wrong. In fact, in another letter Paul describes their consciences as “seared with a hot iron,” causing them not to distinguish between right and wrong ([1 Tim 4:2](#)). This occurs because people have become desensitized to sin and may even compare themselves with other imperfect human beings in order to soften the magnitude of their sin. With the world headed to destruction, some may see their sin as insignificant or not as bad as others. When we compare ourselves to the perfect standard in Christ, however, we see how truly sinful we are.

Why is it difficult for some people to acknowledge that they have sinned and need a Savior?

Question
1

Paul further explains that the **world** follows the pattern established by **the prince of the power of the air** and **the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience** (v. 2b). Clearly, this refers to the evil one who challenged God’s sovereign authority—that



Blinded to Sin

is Satan. Although God remains sovereign over all creation and has already defeated Satan and death, the devil has one primary tool in his arsenal: deception. He has fooled people into thinking that they are generally good and blinded their hearts and minds from seeing how truly onus and detestable their sin really is. For this reason, Paul laments, “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled

to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not

believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them” ([2 Cor 4:4](#)). The worst thing the devil can do is to deceive people into thinking that they have not sinned and they don’t need a Savior.

Today, many people mistakenly make the claim that they have not sinned and some may not even know what sin is. So, how can we help people see that all have sinned? Paul defines sin as engaging in **the lust of our flesh** and **fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind** (v. 3a-b). Sin, therefore, stems from selfish desires that put our wants over obedience and servitude to the Lord. We have become corrupted in our actions and thoughts which bring disrepute upon us and dishonor to God. To help us understand sin, Matthew includes the interaction between Jesus and an unnamed person in his Gospel ([Matt 19:16-30](#)). This man asked Jesus what he must do to have eternal life. To which Jesus responded, he must keep the Commandments to show that the man would still fall short of being good enough or obedient enough to enter heaven. Yet, the man claimed that he had kept all the Commandments dealing with other humans (i.e. refraining from adultery, stealing, lying, and murder) since his youth. So, Jesus commanded him to go and sell what he had and give it to the poor. However, the man couldn’t do this and left saddened. In reality, he couldn’t keep the first Commandment and give God the priority in his life; he was indeed selfish in his perspectives and **desires**—just like every one of us too.

How would you help people who say they haven’t sinned to understand their need for a relationship with the Savior?

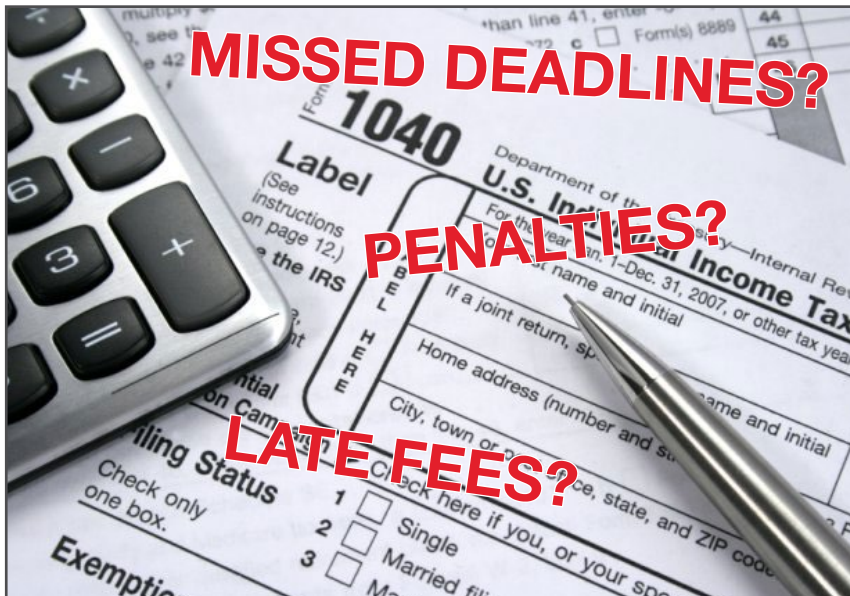
Question
2

None of us naturally gives God the priority He deserves and we follow our own path which ends in destruction. Rather than relying upon God, we all make bad choices and follow our own desires—whether lust, hatred, greed, etc. (see [Matt 5:17-48](#)). Because of our sin, we experience God’s **wrath**; hence, Paul points out that the Ephesians once **were by nature children of wrath—just as** every other human being (v. 3c). Although God loves us unconditionally and desires a relationship with us, He cannot tolerate sin and **disobedience**. His **wrath** is always directed toward our sin rather than us as person. However, if we remain **dead in our trespasses and sins**, then God’s wrath will come upon us and we will be condemned to eternal separation and destruction—not because He doesn’t love us, but because we have chosen that path ourselves by rejecting His offer of salvation.

Ephesians 2:4-7

THE REGENERATION OFFERED IN CHRIST:

Fortunately, verse 4 begins with a contrast, “**but**,” to describe God’s action to counter our own deadly mistakes. Whereas our choices lead to death, God’s path in Christ Jesus leads to life. Paul highlights this contrast by describing God’s character and nature in relation to mankind. Whereas **we were dead in our trespasses** because of our **disobedience**, **God is rich in mercy because of His great love for us** (vv. 4-5). We deserve death because of our choice to sin, but in His **mercy** God has offered an alternative whereby we can be regenerated or **made alive** in Christ. Every one of us



pays bills on a regular basis and if we don’t pay them on time we will incur a penalty in the form of a fine. Imagine, however, that we failed to pay our mortgage on time. We would deserve the fines and late fees that the bank levied against us. One day, however, we go to the mailbox and find a letter from our mortgage company explaining that they have forgiven the

penalties and fines; we’d rejoice and exclaim, “What **mercy!**” In the same way, God has forgiven the penalty of our sin through His Son and when we accept Him as our Savior we can then understand the depths of His **mercy**.

In what ways has God shown His mercy to you over the years?

Question
3

Because of God’s **great love for us** even though we have sinned, Paul outlines three things that God has already done for us: 1) **made us alive together with Christ**, 2) **raised us up together**, and 3) **made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ** (v. 6). First, God gave us life through the sacrifice Jesus made upon the cross; He transformed us from death to life when we confessed our sins, repented, and made Him the priority of our lives. The only One with the power to give life is God; through

no other means can we have a relationship with Him than **in Christ**. Not only did Jesus bestow physical life at creation, but He also gives spiritual life through His death and resurrection ([John 1:1-4](#)). We don't serve a dead prophet, teacher, or leader, but we serve a risen Savior who can make us **alive** with Him!

Second, Paul notes that God **raised us up together**; because Paul uses this phrase in the past tense, it means that we've already been **raised** and refers to our present standing in Christ. It doesn't primarily refer to our future, bodily resurrection—although this too is as sure as if it has already happened—rather it focuses on who we have already become in Christ. Thus, in [Ephesians 1:4](#), he can describe our destiny to become "holy and without blame." Elsewhere, he states, "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" ([Rom 6:4](#)). In other words, God has **made us alive** with Christ and conformed us to His image so that we might imitate Him and live according to the boundaries He has set for us by allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us in every facet of our lives.

What does it mean to be conformed to the image of Christ?

Question
4

Third, God has **made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**. This means that we have a share in the inheritance with Christ, receiving all the rights and privileges of His children. In [chapter 1](#), Paul ended his prayer and thanksgiving to the Lord with similar words in reference to Christ: "which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places" (1:20). Jesus is indeed sovereign over every creature, all creation, and the church! Yet, He has also chosen to share these privileges with us.



Although we aren't sovereign as He is, we will still be restored in our relationship with the heavenly Father, have eternal life, and return to our original position as chief caretaker over God's creation.

Instruct

Although God has already granted us these privileges as His children and we can be sure that we will receive them in full, we await an even greater time when He will show **the exceeding riches of His grace** and **His kindness toward us in Jesus Christ** (v. 7). This verse speaks, therefore, of a time in the future of **the ages to come**—that is when God calls His people home to “heaven” (both dead and living) and He fully establishes His kingdom by renewing heaven and earth and getting rid of sin and death forever. Thus, this refers to the end of time where God will vanquish Satan and his followers and sentence everyone who does not have a relationship with Him to an eternal lake of fire ([Rev 20:10, 14-15](#)). For those of us who have a relationship with Him, we can look forward to spending eternity praising our Lord and Savior. We will live in an **age** without sin, sorrow, sickness, and sadness. God will perfect us as His people and we will celebrate His **grace** and **kindness** eternally!

In what way will God show His grace and kindness toward us in the future?

Question
5

Ephesians 2:8-9

THE ROUTE TO OUR SALVATION:

After helping us to realize our sinful condition and understand the source of our regeneration in Christ, Paul now clearly outlines the route to our salvation. In perhaps the simplest and clearest presentation of the gospel in Scripture, Paul outlines the only way that we can have eternal life. He explains to the Ephesians that they, like any one



of us, **have been saved through faith** and **not of** themselves, but **it is the gift of God** (v. 8). He further explains that we cannot be saved by **works** so that no one can **boast** (v. 9). God wisely eliminated any spirit of competition or superiority by leveling the playing field. None of us has any room to **boast** in our own **works** or goodness because

God has freely offered us salvation in Christ. For those of us who have brothers and

sisters, we understand sibling rivalry. Everything becomes a competition and the “rival” tries to do anything to show off and show up the other. This causes us to lose focus on the most-important things. If this were to happen in salvation, then we would lose focus on the Lord—which got us in trouble in the first place—and the focus would be placed upon ourselves instead.

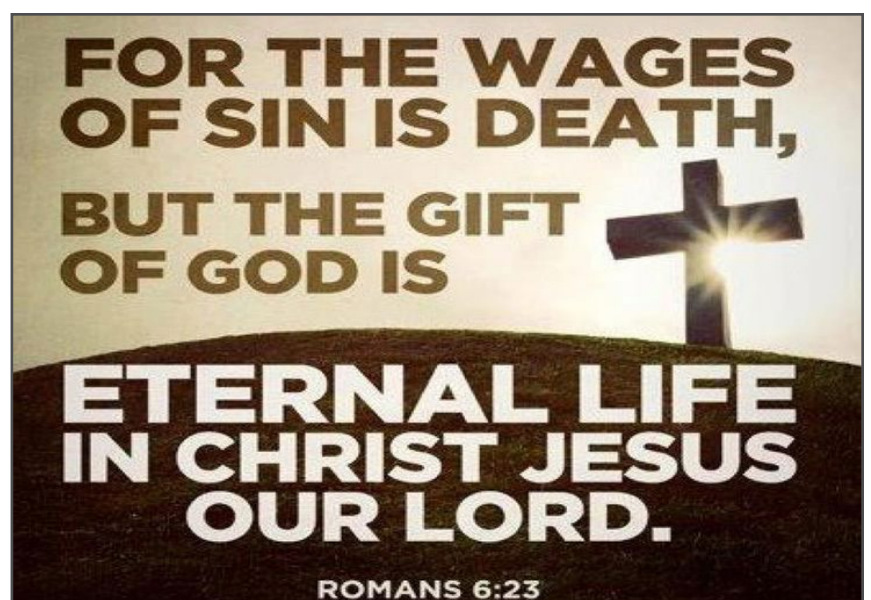
Instead, we have nothing about which we can **boast** before the Lord because He saves us **by grace** and mercy **through faith** in Christ Jesus His Son. Unfortunately, many people fail to understand the route to salvation through Christ and they try to “do” things to earn God’s favor. Some erroneously trust in their good **works** to get them into heaven. They try to treat others as they wish to be treated, they may perform acts of service and kindness, they may give of their time, talents, and finances, or they may even avoid some of the vices and sins which society considers utterly evil, but none of this is good enough to get into heaven. Others may have been baptized and an active member of a church, teaching Bible study, serving as a deacon, singing in the choir, being a greeter or usher, helping the needy, and tithing faithfully; yet, none of this is good enough for us to inherit eternal life.

In what does our society trust to have eternal life? How would you respond to these ways and direct them to the true (one and only) Way?

Question
6

God doesn’t love us any more or any less based upon what we do. He loves because that’s His character; it’s who He is (1 John 4:8). He loves us when we do **good works** in His name, but He also loves us despite our sin. God will punish us when we disobey, but even His chastisement He demonstrates His love for us ([Heb 12:5-6](#)). In fact, God loves us so much that He sent His Son to die for us while we were yet sinners. He has given us the greatest gift free of charge and compliments of His Son.

Consequently, He has graciously extended His offer of salvation to all people if only they would accept it—they would be **made alive** in Him according to His **exceeding riches of grace**.



Ephesians 2:10

THE RESULT OF OUR SALVATION:

Although we aren't saved **by works**, we should engage in **good works** because we are saved and have a relationship with Christ (v. 10). For this reason, Paul explains the result of our salvation in which we have been restored to our original purpose of performing and walking in **good works**. He pens, "**We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**" In the beginning, God created mankind in His image (i.e. **workmanship**) and endowed him with the responsibility to be His representative and to care for the rest of creation. Even though God created the entire universe, He created mankind uniquely by forming him from clay with His hands and breathing life into his nostrils with His own breath. In a way, God sculpted us and invested us with purpose!

The purpose which God gave us from the beginning is to live (i.e. **walk**) in such a way that honors and glorifies Him. When we have a relationship with Christ, He restores us to that original purpose and **good works** will flow naturally. We will imitate our Savior and performing **good works** will become our second nature. We won't even really need to think about them; they will become our natural and genuine response. They will be part of our character in Christ. This doesn't mean that we don't need to be intentional about doing **good works**, but rather it signifies who we are and who we have become in Christ. A relationship with Christ changes everything in our lives; we will desire to **walk** in obedience to the leadership of His Spirit—following the boundaries which He has set for us and living in such a way that He receives the glory for the transformation He has produced in our lives.

In what good works does God desire that we walk?

Question
7

In [Ephesians 2:1-10](#), Paul perhaps makes the simplest and clearest presentation of the gospel in Scripture. We have all sinned and are dead in our trespasses and sins as a result. On our own, we have no way we can escape the penalty of death for our sins. We've been deceived by the evil one and follow the path of this world which leads only to destruction. Yet, God in His love, grace, and mercy stepped in and did what we could not do for ourselves. He sent His Son to die for our sins and pay the penalty of death on our behalf. He offers us the free gift of eternal life based on what His Son has already done for us. We don't deserve this gift; we can't earn it; we can't be good enough to receive it. God gives us that gift when we accept it by professing faith in His Son, repenting of our sins, and surrendering our lives to Him.

Unfortunately, some make salvation harder than it really is because they wrongly add requirements to it. For example, the barber in the introduction thought that he could earn salvation by his good works, but fortunately the minister gave him an illustration to help him understand that his works aren't good enough. Those of us who have a relationship with Christ have a responsibility to carry the truth of the gospel into a world that is deceived. As a community, we can't become sidetracked from this responsibility; we must take it seriously and obediently follow the Spirit's lead in proclaiming the gospel of God's grace and salvation. As a believer, we must ask ourselves: Have we been faithful in sharing this good news or have we become complacent? Therefore, let us re-dedicate ourselves in 2019 to worship the Lord by sharing the gospel to all people here in Fort Worth and around the world.

Incorporate

In our society, how can we tactfully help people to recognize they're sinners and need a Savior? How can we also help them to understand that sin has consequences?

In our society which claims we have many paths to heaven, how can we help them understand we can only be made alive in Christ?

When we witness (i.e. share the gospel), what is the role of the Holy Spirit in the process? Why should we not be discouraged if someone doesn't pray to receive Christ?

What is the result of our salvation? How does it affect the way that we live?

JANUARY 2019

WRITTEN AND PUBLISHED BY
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT WORTH

FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR FOR QUESTIONS
PLEASE CONTACT
MIKENEAL@FBCFW.ORG

INTERACTIVE PDF AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
CURRICULUM.FBCFW.ORG

Visit us on the web

www.fbcfw.org



[@FBCFW](https://twitter.com/FBCFW)



[facebook.com/
FirstBaptistFortWorth](https://facebook.com/FirstBaptistFortWorth)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT WORTH
A place to belong!

5001 NE LOOP 820 • FORT WORTH, TX • 76137
(817) 485-7711 • INFO@FBCFW.ORG