

Contra Mundum
To the Praise of His Glory
Ephesians 1:11-14
February 1, 2015

...according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will... **-Ephesians 1:11**

I. WE HAVE AN INHERITANCE

- Through Christ, we now have an eternity as children of God in which to look forward - a now and not yet reality (Rom. 8:15-17, 24; Gal. 3:29; Titus 3:7).
- This is decided, a present reality, because it is according to the purpose of God, who does all things as he plans, and all things well (Isa. 14:24-27; Rom. 9:19-21).

II. SALVATION: FATHER, SON, AND SPIRIT

- Called by God the Father, justified by the work of God the Son, sealed with God the Spirit (Eph. 1:3-5; 2 Cor. 13:14).
- Hearing the gospel leads to salvation. No one is chosen who has not responded to the truth (vs. 13; Rom. 10:14-17; 2 Tim. 2:24-26).
- We are sealed with the Spirit when we believe. Every true believer is filled with the Spirit of Christ (vs. 13-14; Rom. 8:9-11).

III. WE ARE AN INHERITANCE

- Although we gain an inheritance in Christ, we also become God's inheritance as well. We are his "possession" (Deut. 9:29; 32:9; Ps. 33:12; 1 Kings 8:51; Zech. 2:12; Acts 20:28; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9-10).
- The "we" and "you" interchange in vss. 11-14 begin Paul's foray into the unity of the body of Christ (Eph. 2:5, 11-22; 3:6; 4:4-5; 17).

KNOW: In God the Father we both receive an inheritance and become an inheritance, purchased by the blood of Jesus, and sealed by the work of the Spirit. This all serves to bring glory to God.

DO: Praise God for your position in Christ.

Suggested Reading:

The Heart of the Gospel, by Robert Coleman

The Work of Christ (Contours of Christian Theology), by R. Letham

**Questions/Discovery Points for
Life Groups/Families**

Please read Ephesians 1:11-14

1. You have a hope and an inheritance in Christ. Is that enough for you for this life? Why or why not?
2. Paul tells us we've been predestined by a God who does everything the way he wants to do it. What concerns you the most about predestination?
3. Paul says that "we who were the first to hope in Christ might be for the praise of his glory." How is it to God's glory that the Jews were the first to hope in Christ? What does that mean for Gentiles?
4. Paul tells us that if we are "in Christ," then we are sealed "with the Spirit." What does this guarantee us, and what does it do for us now?
5. Read Galatians 4:9. Which is it—we know God, or God knows us? Or both? How does this relate to predestination and choosing. Can both be true—can we choose to know God when he has already chosen to know us?
6. Have a couple of people in your group share a brief testimony of how they came to faith. In what ways do you see both the divine and the human elements interacting in their story?