

Questions for Ephesians wk 2

- Have you ever witnessed a reading of a will? What was it like? Was the family loving and caring or did they just want stuff? This section is like a reading of the will - it is all the spiritual blessings God has given us.
- Do we ever bless people today? I mean in the sense that we say “Blessed are _____” Why or why not?
- The passage says that we have been blessed in the heavenly realms. Why is it significant that it is in the heavenly realms? Also this blessings are “in Christ.” Is that important as well - the blessings are in Christ?
- Verse 4 stresses the fact that God chose us. Do you have a hard time with the idea that God chose us before creation? Why or why not?
 - Why is the phrase, “before the creation of the world” so important?
- The reason we were chosen was to be holy and blameless. Pastor Keith said that was the same phrase used to describe the animals set apart for sacrifice in the OT. Why is it important that we were set apart to be holy and blameless?
- We were predestined for adoption to sonship has a background in Roman adoption practice. Their practice was that the natural father no longer had any rights to the child once adopted by the new family. The picture is one of us being taken from the devil, and receiving a new Father - God himself.
 - With this picture in mind, how do you feel about being adopted into God’s family?
- The phrase, “the praise of His glorious grace” seems to be an amazing way to speak of the grace of God. Do you have a way you like to speak of or think of the grace of God?
- In Christ we have redemption by His blood, and the forgiveness of sins. Are these one in the same, or two different ideas?
- Have you ever thought of the idea of the Holy Spirit in your life as a deposit or down payment on God’s future promises?
 - So if the ones going to heaven are the ones with the Spirit, should we not all be seeking to know and understand the spirit better?
- When think about the blessings of God, does it cause you, like Paul, to bust out into praise? Why of why not?
 - How often do you prove to yourself that you need a Savior?
 - How often do you enter the worship service with a desperation to praise God because He has saved you - even from the week you just had?
- The idea of being “in Christ” - Do you agree with Pastor Keith that we often get the idea turned around and think more of it being Christ in me, rather than me being in Christ? Why or why not?
 - What can be the results if we turn that around - who is really in control?
- The doctrine of election is sometimes tough to swallow. Do you agree that it can be a great and encouraging thing when we realize that we are not the one’s

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in control - we should just be grateful that God chose us to be holy and blameless?

- How much do you feel you have a handle on the work of the Holy Spirit?
 - Is He more like a Jr. member of the Trinity for you?
 - What could you do to understand and get to know Him better?