

Sermon Notes

A Song of Praise for God's Glorious Grace

Ephesians 1: 1-14 (pew Bible pg. 976)

"Ephesians provides grace-filled encouragement. If you feel tired, discouraged, beat up, lonely, or confused, then welcome to Ephesians! Our souls need to see this description of the glorious grace of God. We need the gospel every day." (Merida)

An amazing summary of this gospel we so desperately need is the focus of Ephesians. As Paul writes from a Roman prison, his perspective is from the heights of heaven. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul's thoughts are comprehensive and far-reaching. He uses the word "all" no less than 51 times in the letter. The sweep of his thoughts takes in Jew and gentile, heaven and earth, from eternity past (*before the foundation of the world*), to today, and into eternity to come.

Praise gushes out of Paul's pen as we read the opening verses of chapter one. In the Greek language, verses three through fourteen is one incredibly long (202 word) complex sentence. Grammar does not stand in the way of Paul's exuberant call to worship and praise. Once Paul gets started, he can't seem to find a place to stop until we have a three-fold call to worship: "to the praise of his glory"! Much like the Doxology we sing, Paul's opening three stanza hymn praises the Holy Trinity. Stanza one (vv3-6) praises the Father for His gracious plan. Stanza two (vv7-12) praises the Son for His redeeming purchase. Stanza three (vv13-14) praises the Spirit for His sealing power.

Praise the Father Who Chooses and Adopts Us as His Children

Praise the Son Who Redeems Us Through His Blood

Praise the Spirit Who Assures Us and Guarantees God's Promises

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Weekly Discipleship Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew: I was challenged:
I was reminded: I was convicted:
A question I still have: A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.
Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.
Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.
Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.
(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)
Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

How does this week's passage and message contribute to your understanding of the Trinity? How does a deeper understanding of the Trinity move us into deeper worship?

How does knowing that God works all things according to the counsel of his will affect you? Why do we need to reflect on this truth?

How does this opening passage (and others in the various letters of Paul) help us better understand worship? Do you include the recounting of God's work in redemption in your personal times of prayer? Why is this important?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?
How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jim Fulp: Counseling Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students & Discipleship
Katie Austin: Children's Ministry Coordinator

Contact Us

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Upcoming Events

Jan 25 - Tea & Prayer for India
Jan 26 - Tacos & Tamales Fundraiser
Jan 27 - GriefShare begins
Feb 1 - Sportsman's Banquet
Feb 2 - CentriKid Info Meeting
Feb 6 - Ladies Bible Study
Feb 14-15 - Marriage Retreat

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