

Focus passage: Ephesians 1:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **12** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. **13** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

What stands out to you from this passage?

Who comes across as the main actor in this passage? Go through this passage marking the verbs to see who is most at work.

Read on in Ephesians 2:1-10. *If not for God's action, where would we be? Why did God choose us?*

Much of Ephesians 1-2 details the work that God has done for us through Christ and by the Spirit. In response to God's work, what actions are we, the ones who've been blessed and chosen by God, called to do?

Verse 5 says that we are adopted as sons through Jesus Christ. Why "sons" and not "children"?

*Speaking into the specific context of Paul's day, he uses an illustration of adoption as sons to communicate that we share fully in the inheritance (Eph 1:11,14) that would have been for the sons in this culture. What is it that we inherit? Read **1 Peter 1:3-9** for more on this inheritance.*

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

