



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Examining the text & our hearts:

Bible Reading: Eph. 1:3-10

I. God Has A Mission (Eph. 1:9-10)

- “The goal of [God’s mission] is to incorporate people into the Kingdom of God & to involve them in his mission.” –Arthur Glasser

II. Seeing Who You Are In Yourself: *Disqualified* (Eph. 1:4-10)

- A. In yourself you are not holy (1:4)
- B. In yourself you are not blameless (1:4)
- C. In yourself you are full of sinful thoughts, words & deeds (1:7)
- D. In yourself you are blind to what God is doing (1:9)

III. Seeing Who You Are In Christ: *Qualified* (Eph. 1:3-10)

A. God’s mission has reached you

- “Ephesians narrates the triune God’s [Mission]; it invites the Church to participate in God’s mission by becoming what they were called to be.” –I. Ninan

B. You are blessed with ‘every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, in Christ’ (1:3)

1. ‘Spiritual blessings’ (Eph. 1:3b)
– “Spiritual here refers above all to the Holy Spirit through whom the blessings...come to us.”—P. S. Williamson
2. “in the heavenly places,” (Eph. 1:3c) *not* “in heaven in eternity”

a. Some (wrongly) postpone these blessings to eternity future in 'heaven,' after resurrection

b. 'heavenly blessings' available here & now for our experience

– “God...is already on a mission...God...is seeking *not just to save 'souls' to heaven some day*, but to save & restore the created order: individuals, communities...the world, the cosmos.”—Michael Gorman

– “*In the heavenly places*’...suggests, *not* that believers are...*transported to heaven & out of...this world...but rather that by being in Christ they share in [God’s] powerful grace...*

Believers therefore lead their lives on earth, in the present, in light of heavenly...realities...” – Michael Gorman

3. 'in Christ' (1:3d)

– “To be 'in Christ' is to...be caught up in God’s mission & thus in God’s character—indeed God’s very life...[It is] participation in the life & mission of God.” –Michael Gorman

C. God’s blessings determine our identity

- “Eph. 1:3-14 functions *to form the identity* of the people of God, shap[ed by] what God has done & how they play a central role in the work of God to recapture and redeem the world.” –Tim Gombis

D. You are chosen to be holy & blameless (1:4)

E. You are a child of God (1:5)

F. You are forgiven & released from all your sins/trespasses (1:7; 1 Cor. 15:3)

- “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses...” (Eph. 1:7)

G. You are qualified to join God in his mission (1:9-10)

- “*The language of election & adoption is not an idiom of individual or even corporate predestination over against the non-elect...It is the language of corporate identity, answering the questions, 'Who are we?'*” –Michael Gorman

IV. You Are Chosen For God’s Mission

A. Like Abraham was chosen (Gen. 12:1-3)

1. There was nothing special about him (Josh. 24:2)
2. Chosen to bless others

B. Choosing means privilege & responsibility (Gen. 12:3b)

V. Respond By Blessing God (Eph. 1:3, 6, 12, 14)

- “When people bless God, they praise him. When God blesses [us], he confers a benefit.”—Peter Williamson