

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ephesians 1:3-14

"The Rescue"

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. (ESV)

Questions for Discussion

1. Read the passage together, as you go have someone underline the different persons of the Trinity (The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit). Make sure to underline the times Paul says "In Him, He, or Whom as well" What does this tell you about how the trinity works?
2. that word "predestination" is in here... (yep v. 5, and in different words v. 4) be careful not to spend the whole time talking about it! But start first here... what would the Ephesian Christians think of Paul's use of it? How about Paul, what would he think of pre-destination based on reading his story in Acts 9? Also just for fun look up Proverbs 16:9 for interesting input on the free will/predestination debate.
3. Discuss with the group the concept of needing God's rescue (That is what I think this passage describes). As a Christian there was at least a point where you felt you needed it. Describe that? What about your non-Christian friends... what would they think of this idea of needing rescue?
4. This passage has "to the praise of his glory" a few times. It is Paul praising and

adoring God for his work. What role does adoration of God play in your life? When is the last time you thought God was worthy of this?

5. What are common things people in your community (neighborhood, work, school, etc.) adore or praise? How does that affect their lives?