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The Purpose of God

Ephesians 1:1–14

1. Read Ephesians 1:1–14. According to verses 3–6, what blessings are ours from the Father?

What other blessings, according to verses 7–12, do we have in Jesus Christ?

2. Which of these is most significant to you? Explain.

3. Ephesians 1:1–14 uses words like *the will of God*, *chose*, *predestined*, *according to the plan* and *the purpose of his will*. Much emotion can surround the discussion of such words. What is Paul's emotional reaction to being chosen and predestined?

What is yours?

4. From the information given in 1:1–14 alone, try to formulate a clear statement of what it means to be chosen by God.

5. In the New Testament, the word *mystery* is not used of some murky idea we can never understand but of a truth which has now been revealed (see 3:4–5). According to 1:9–10, God has blessed us by revealing the ultimate goal of all history. What is it?

6. What would it mean to bring all things under Christ?

7. What blessings do we receive through the Holy Spirit (vv. 13–14)?

8. Summarize God's redeeming purpose from eternity past to eternity future as described in 1:3–14.

9. What motivated God to undertake this plan and give us all these blessings (vv. 5, 9)?

10. What does it mean to live “to the praise of his glory” (1:6, 12, 14)?

How can we do this?

11. How has this passage increased your sense of participation in God's total purpose of the universe? Explain.
