

## Reflection and Discussion

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| Sermon Series | Rooted              |
| Sermon Title  | A Place in the Plan |
| Bible Texts   | Ephesians 1:3-14    |
| Date          | April 7, 2024       |

### CONNECT – Getting to know one another

- Question 1: What does being chosen by God mean to you? Does it change how you view yourself?
- Question 2: Do you ever wonder how God wants to use you? How do you see yourself in his plan?
- Question 3: Have you experienced a time of difficulties when your plans went awry? How did this change your life's trajectory?
- Question 4: Did you witness God's hand in the changes you experienced? In what ways did these changes affect your spiritual walk with God?

### EQUIP – Understanding God's word

**God's great plan—much better than our own**

**Take a moment to read Ephesians 1:3-14 again.**

- Question 5: Ephesians 1:3 tells us God has “blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ”. In verses 4-14, what are some of those spiritual blessings?
- Question 6: How do the blessings named in this passage differ from what we often long for God to “bless us” with? What does God value and count as the greatest gifts He can give us?
- Question 7: Who is the source of these spiritual blessings (1:3)? Why does that matter? What are some spiritual blessings that you see in your life?
- Question 8: List the actions attributed to God in this passage.
- Question 9: God chose us before the creation of the world (1:4). What does that tell us about God?
- Question 10: What was His objective in choosing us? (1:4)
- Question 11: What does it mean to you that you were chosen to be God's child?
- Question 12: Paul uses the words “chosen” and “predestined” together to describe his plan for us (1:4-5, 11). Try not to get lost on this discussion, but how do you view the mystery of God's foreknowledge and predestination?
- Question 13: Paul uses the phrase “to the praise of his glory” three times in this passage (v 6, 11, 14). What does that phrase mean?

- Question 14: According to this passage, what brings God glory? Does this surprise you?
- Question 15: “In Christ” is another phrase we see often here. What does that mean? Which of those phrases stand out to you as describing your own personal relationship with Jesus Christ?
- Question 16: How do verses 7-8 clarify the cost by which we were we redeemed?
- Question 17: How do we receive redemption and forgiveness for our sins? (1:7, 2:8-10)
- Question 18: What is the mystery that has been made known in verses 9-10?
- Question 19: As believers we are marked in him with a seal (1:13-14). What is that seal?
- Question 20: Describe the role of the Spirit in verses 13 and 14.
- Question 21: What is the inheritance mentioned in verse 14? How does this relate to verse 3?
- Question 22: How would you summarize Ephesians 1-14? How do these verses describe a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?
- Question 23: What part do we play in this grand picture? Compare our role with that of God, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit in this great plan.

### DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

- Question 24: How does this text bring you hope and comfort in this present age?
- Question 25: Do you find it difficult to trust this message? Why?
- Question 26: What does this passage say about what God thinks about you? How might this change how you think about yourself?
- Question 27: How has the study of Ephesians impacted your thinking about who you are as a chosen child of God? Knowing this, do you feel a call from the Holy Spirit to action?
- Question 28: How does God's great plan for your life compare with your own plan for your life? What are some practical steps you can take to make your plan closer to his?
- Question 29: Every generation has sought to understand more deeply God's revelation shown in this letter. How about you? What new thoughts has this passage inspired about your relationship with Christ?