

LESSON 2 - EPHESIANS 1:7-14

Cecil F. Alexander once wrote, "There was no other...good enough to pay the price of sin; He only could unlock the gate of Heav'n and let us in!"

Confirming in this incredible chapter of Ephesians, Paul begins to unwrap the astronomical truth that the infinite life of Jesus Christ is more than sufficient to save all who accept Him as the One who died in their place! This is our Savior!



THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

Read Ephesians 1:7-14

1. Take a moment to immerse yourself in the power and majesty of these verses. What stands out to you as you read these verses?

2. If you were to title this section of Scripture, what would you title it and why?



MIXING THE MORTAR

Read Ephesians 1:7-10

Verses 7–10 are a vital stone of this incredible foundation: the stone of redemption, forgiveness, and the profound purpose of His will.

3. As you read through verse 7, you will find two things that Christ did for us.

What are they? _____ And _____.

- a. Using a dictionary if desired, write a brief description of each.

i. _____

ii. _____

4. From your own understanding, explain the meaning of “redemption through His blood.” (Helpful hint: Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:12, 22.)

5. Look at the following verses and note the extent of God’s forgiveness of our sin:

Psalm 103:12

Isaiah 38:17

Micah 7:19

John 1:29

a. What picture of God do we see here—a generous God or a stingy God?

b. Do you live as if you are forgiven? Please explain.

CUTTING THE STONE



It is difficult to read these verses without sensing the incredible love and sacrifice that made our salvation possible. In the space provided, write out a brief prayer of worship, thanksgiving, and praise for the forgiveness we experience through Him.

6. When we think about election, adoption, and predestination, we need to continuously see these concepts in light of God's love.
 - a. List some ways God has lavished His love on you personally.

7. To give us more insight to this mystery of God's will, read Colossians 1:26–27.
 - a. What wisdom from God do we have that has been previously hidden?

 - b. What does verse 10 tell us about God's ultimate goal? (See also Philippians 2:9–11)

*Have you on the Lord believed?
Still there's more to follow;
Of His grace have you received?
Still there's more to follow.*

*O the grace the Father shows!
Still there's more to follow;
Freely He His grace bestows,
Still there's more to follow.*

*More and more, more and more,
Always more to follow;
O His matchless, boundless love!
Still there's more to follow.*
--Phillip Paul Bliss



USING A TROWEL

Read Ephesians 1:11-14

Ephesians 1:11–14 reveals that God has no plan, no program, no purpose that does not completely rest in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ!

8. What is the spiritual blessing Paul writes about in verse 11?

STONE QUARRY



Paul wrote in verses 5 and 11 that God predestined believers to become His children and heirs. Yet, in verse 13 he said that his readers became Christians when they heard and believed the gospel message—a decision that was freely chosen. Explain as best you can how both of these statements can be true.

Continuing in verse 13, we begin to see how the Trinity works together to make our salvation a reality. Each Person of the Godhead has a unique and special ministry within our lives individually.

10. How are all three persons of the Trinity involved in our salvation?
 - God the Father:
 - God the Son:
 - God the Holy Spirit:
11. According to verse 13, how had the Ephesians (and all believers) become followers of Christ?
 - a. When does the believer receive the Holy Spirit?
 - b. What do you think it means to be “sealed” in Christ with the Spirit?

- c. Why is sealing by the Holy Spirit an important part of God's plan?
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- 12. Verse 14 assures us that God has made a pledge or promise to us.
 - a. What does it mean to have the Holy Spirit abide in believers?

 - b. Give an example of a type of pledge that we would give today.

 - c. How can you relate this to the pledge that God gave us?

The Holy Spirit is the only authenticator of Christianity.

--Arthur P. Johnson



STONE UPON STONE

Group Discussion Questions

Take a moment to answer the following questions
for your time of discussion after the message.

Read Ephesians 1:7–14.

1. Why would God make a plan that would involve such enormous sacrifice and suffering for Himself?
 - a. What does this mean to you personally?
 - b. Why would He use His will to carry through a plan of salvation for such unworthy sinners?
2. What is the inheritance that Paul mentions in Ephesians 1:14?

