

Week of July 9 - The Mystery Small Group Lesson 1

Connect

Before becoming a Christian, Paul harassed and even attacked the Church. After professing to be a Christian, how would you begin to trust that Paul was truly saved? What evidence might you point out?

Verses - Ephesians 1:1-10 (CSB)

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will: To the faithful saints in
Christ Jesus at Ephesus. 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the
heavens in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the
world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. 5 He predestined us
to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to
the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he
lavished on us in the Beloved One. 7 In him we have redemption through
his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of
his grace 8 that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and
understanding. 9 He made known to us the mystery of his will,
according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ 10 as a plan
for the right time—to bring everything together in Christ, both things in
heaven and things on earth in him.

Study

1. a. What role did Paul have, and who decided that he should have this role?
   b. To whom is Paul writing? (only to Christians, non-Christians, or both)
   c. What differences does the author, his authority, or the audience make?
   d. How should they receive Paul's teaching? (1 Peter 2:16; Romans 6:10-14)

2. Immediately after Paul openly recognizes the faithfulness of the Ephesians, what is he eager to remind them of (vv.3-10)? List them. How are each of these important?

   a. Why is being predestined an important aspect of salvation? What does it say about the surety of salvation? (John 10:28–29; Romans 5:8; Romans 8:29-30)

APPLY: How does/can the surety of salvation play a role in your walk in Christ? How might this correct your lack of faith or times of weakness? How does it affect the way you look at others in church?

DISCUSS: What are the spiritual blessings (v.3)? In what sense do Christians already have all spiritual blessings?

Share

How do you feel blessed reviewing the verses today? How do the names, words, and adjectives that are described of God and Jesus reveal things about Him? How do these characteristics orientate your understanding of Him?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray that God will give us greater wisdom and understanding and continue to reveal himself to us through Christ Jesus to lead to holiness in love for Him.
- Pray to respect His leading in the lives of others and be slow to judge them.