

# Ephesians Chapter One

## Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Sit down and read all of Ephesians, Chapter 1. Verses 3-14 was originally one long, continuous sentence. This paragraph size sentence provides a strong theological foundation for the rest of the letter. As you read this chapter underline or highlight the phrases that mean the most to you. Circle the words "in Christ" or "in Him" every time you see them.*

*Read Acts, chapters 18-20, so that you will have some background on the believers in Ephesus to whom Paul addresses this letter. As you read Ephesians keep in mind that Paul is in prison as he writes this letter.*

1. After reading the three chapters from Acts, describe some of the characteristics and features of Ephesus.

2. Ephesians 1:3-14 gives thanks for the triune God and states the various activities of each part of the Trinity. According to these verses;

What has the Father done? (vs. 3-6)

What has the Son done? (vs. 7-11)

What has the Holy Spirit done? (vs. 13-14)

3. What do you learn about our purpose as Christians from each of these verses?

>Verse 4

>Verse 6

>Verse 12

>Verse 14

4. Verses 15-23 are a prayer asking God to help us grasp the fullness of his blessings. What is it that Paul prays God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, will give us the wisdom and revelation to know?

5. How does it make you feel to know that you were chosen before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless?

6. Thinking of what God has done for you...is now doing for you...and will do for you in the future, complete this sentence...

>My purpose as a Christian is to:

7. Make a list of the many spiritual and material blessings God has given you. Give thanks for who God is and what he has done for you.

8. In what ways does God “open or enlighten the eyes of your heart”?

*Theological Moment: Ephesians 1:4-5, 11:*

*The doctrines of election and predestination have caused hours of discussion as well as dissension in the church. First, the doctrine of election tells us that because God is sovereign, he is in control of all things at all times. No event ever catches him by surprise. Included within his sovereignty is his selection-or election- of people who at some point in their lives will turn in faith to him. At the same time, we as humans are free to choose how we live our lives. Only God understands how it is possible for these two realities, which seem mutually exclusive, to be simultaneously true.*

*Second, on the doctrine of predestination, there are two primary views. The view of Arminianism which emphasizes the power of a person's free will. Christ died for all people and anyone can accept or refuse the gift of redemption. According to this view, God elects those people who would have chosen Christ anyway. In contrast, Calvinism, named for French theologian and reformer John Calvin, stresses the importance of God's election. In the Calvinist view God chooses those whom he will save. These predestined ones do not have the opportunity nor the desire to turn away.*

*The Book of Concord, one of the key books on Lutheran theology, states that Scripture plainly reveals the truth that the love of God for the world of lost sinners is universal, that is, that it embraces all people without exception, that Christ has fully reconciled all people unto God, and that God earnestly desires to bring all people to faith, to preserve them therein, and thus to save them. Therefore, election is not a cause why people remain unbelievers when they hear the Word of God. The reason assigned by Scripture for this sad fact is that these people judge themselves unworthy of everlasting life, putting the Word of God from them and obstinately resisting the Holy Spirit, whose earnest will it is to bring them to repentance and faith by means of the Word. The reason why all who hear the Word do not come to faith and therefore receive the greater damnation is not that God did not want them to be saved. It is their own fault because they heard the Word of God not to learn but only to despise, blaspheme, and ridicule it, and they resisted the Holy Spirit who wanted to work within them.*