

Ephesians

Gospel Truths lead to Gospel Living “Hope”

Outline:

Ephesians 1:1–14

Observations:

1. The gospel begins with God
2. God’s Sovereignty does not negate our responsibility or free will
3. God’s grace is the greatest possession in the world
4. You and I have a responsibility
5. The gospel ends with God-HOPE

Questions for individual Bible study or group discussion:

1. When you first heard the question: ‘What is the most important thing about you? What did you think? Why?’
 - a. When you heard: ‘the most important thing about you is what you believe about God’ what did you think? Why is that the most important thing about anyone?
2. Read Ephesians 1:1–14
 - a. Theology is the ‘study of God.’ What do we learn from this passage about God?
 - i. What characteristics do you see in this passage?
 - ii. Which ones are really difficult to understand?
 - iii. Which ones are easier to understand?
 - iv. How do these truths about God relate to your life?
 - b. We see in this passage both God’s Sovereignty and man’s responsibility; read this statement and write your thoughts or discuss in your group
 - i. *"God's predestination and human free choice are a mystery but not a contradiction. They go beyond our reason, but not against reason. That is they are not contradictory, but neither can we see exactly how they are complementary. We apprehend each as true, but we do not comprehend how both are true. There is no contradiction in God knowingly predetermining and predeterminately knowing from all eternity precisely what we would do with our free acts. God determined that moral creatures would do things freely. He did not determine that they would be forced to perform free acts. What is forced is not free and what is free is not forced. In brief, we are CHOSEN BUT FREE." – Geisler*
 - c. God’s grace is the greatest possession we could ever own.
 - i. How can you (we) invest in this possession more in our lives?
 - ii. Read Romans 10:13–15: What is our responsibility as followers of Jesus according to this passage?
 - d. According to Ephesians 1:13, believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit. How does this bring hope to your life and others?