

Loving God's Great Purposes (Ephesians 1:3-14)

Four Priorities for Life – Part 8
Life Church St. Louis – August 17, 2014
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NIV) This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD ..."

Luke 9:23 (NIV) Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

1. The Father has _____ you in Christ

Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

1A. The Father _____ you in Christ

Ephesians 1:4 (NIV) For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

1B. The Father _____ you as sons

Ephesians 1:5-6 (NIV) In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

2. God's ultimate purpose is to put everything _____

Ephesians 1:9-10 (NIV) And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

2A. In Christ, you have been _____

Ephesians 1:7-8 (NIV) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

2B. In Christ, your purpose is to _____ God

Ephesians 1:11-12 (NIV) In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

2C. You are _____ in Christ by hearing & believing the Gospel

Ephesians 1:13a (NIV) And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, ...

3. The Holy Spirit _____ you in Christ

Ephesians 1:13b (NIV) Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

3A. The Holy Spirit _____ your eternity

Ephesians 1:14a (NIV) who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance ...

3B. The Holy Spirit will bring complete _____

Ephesians 1:14b (NIV) ... until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

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Study Guide

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Intro. What examples can you think of where being part of something bigger than oneself brings out the best in people?

In what ways should being part of a church and the kingdom of God make a difference in a believer's life?

What should our significance in life be based upon (Jeremiah 9:23-24)?

How should living for God's great purposes affect our lives (Luke 9:23)?

1A. What kind of spiritual blessings has God blessed you with in Christ (Ephesians 1:3)?

1B. How can God's choice of you in Christ motivate you to increase in holiness (Ephesians 1:4)?

1C. In what ways is being adopted as a children of God, part of God's plan and purpose (Ephesians 1:5-6)?

1D. How can you grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:17-18)?

2A. How would you describe God's ultimate purpose for His creation (Ephesians 1:9-10)?

2B. What place does redemption play in God's overall purpose (Ephesians 1:7-8)?

2C. According to Ephesians 1:11-12, what was God's purpose in choosing and predestining you in Christ?

2D. How does a person become included in Christ (Ephesians 1:13a)?

2E. What are practical ways that you can glorify Christ in your life?

3A. What is the importance of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life (Ephesians 1:13b)?

2B. What does the Holy Spirit guarantee about our future (Ephesians 1:14)?

2C. What is the Holy Spirit's current role in carrying out God's great purposes? How can you better cooperate with the Holy Spirit in your life?