

THREE IN ONE

“God, Our Father”- Ephesians 1:3-6
January 3rd, 2016

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Ephesians 1:3-6

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

- ☀ If you were asked to describe God, where would you begin? Who is God?
- ☀ What role does God the Father play in your life? (What does the Bible say that He specifically does that Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit will not do)?
- ☀ Verse 3, 4, and 5 give us three words that tell us about God's role in our salvation. Even though these are somewhat difficult concepts, they give us a glimpse at the Father's activity to bring us back to Him. Take some time to think through and talk through what these mean:
 - v.3- He BLESSED us. What does this mean?
 - v.4- He CHOSE us. What does this mean?
 - v.5- He PREDESTINED us. What does this mean?

*The concept of election and predestination is a difficult one. The main thing to note here is that it is a biblical concept, even though we don't necessarily know exactly how it works. This verse teaches us that God has a plan and is sovereign over all of history. Other Scriptures teach us that we as humans have free choices. These two seemingly contradictory concepts work together, although we can't seem to make the two work. God can. That is all that we need to know. There are many differing views about predestination and free will, but Paul does not want to spark theological debate among the Ephesians by using the word "predestine," his goal is to remind them that they are blessed- that God's plan has been working itself out since eternity past. As you read this passage, be comforted by the fact that God is in control, and has been working on our behalf throughout eternity. Dennis Covington summarized it beautifully, saying, "Mystery is not the absence of Meaning, but the presence of more meaning than we can comprehend."

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

-A.W. Tozer

- ☀ Verse 6 tells why God did these things. Why did he do it? What does this tell us about the character of God?

NEXT STEPS:

- ☀ Why would people have difficulty relating to God the Father? Do you struggle with this in any way? Do you find it easy or difficult to call God “father”? What is the impact of that on your life and experience with God?
- ☀ How can people overcome issues with their own fathers, which impact their view of God the Father?
- ☀ What is the result of a correct view of God the Father on a person's day to day life? Take some time to confess anything that might be hindering your relationship with God, the Father.