

Week of 4/7/19
A Brand New You
Ephesians 1:4-6

The Background: The apostle Paul wrote Ephesians to the churches around Ephesus to tell us the scope of God's plan for people, who we are in Christ, and how that affects everyday life. The first three chapters focus on what Christians should believe, unfolding the riches of God's grace in Christ. The last three chapters explain the implications of God's grace for the church, individuals, and for families. The book ends with a command to stand firm in the armor of God against the world, flesh, and the devil. Paul wrote this letter in prison around 62 A.D.

Outline:

- A Believer's Wealth (1-3)
- A Believer's Walk (4-6:9)
- A Believer's Warfare (6:9-24)

Getting Started:

1) The book of Ephesians is a letter of correspondence written by Paul from prison to a group of Christians he spent considerable time with. What's your favorite method of communication: *face-to-face, phone, text, letter, video chatting (e.g., Marco Polo), etc.?*

2) We'll be in the book of Ephesians for a while.

- a) Discuss strategies and resources for studying this book as individuals and as a small group.
- b) Discuss the possibility of memorizing portions of this book together.
- c) Watch the following video together:

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/ephesians/>

Digging Deeper:

Note: If you didn't meet last week because of Spring Break, consider working through some of the questions surrounding verse 3 from last week. Verse 3 is the theme of the book. Those questions are available on our website. This week we look at verses 4-6. Using this section of Ephesians and the Scriptures found in this week's bulletin, discuss these questions as a group.

3) What's a basic definition of "chosen" and "predestined"?

4) In our salvation God chooses and we choose. The big question is which choice determines the other. Discuss different ways Christians might disagree on this charitably.

5) What are some challenges we face if we make our choice decisive in salvation (i.e., *if God chooses us because he saw we would choose him*)? How might you answer those challenges?

6) What are some challenges we face if we make God's choice decisive in salvation (i.e. *if we choose him because he first chooses us*)? How might you answer those challenges?

7) Read through the verses in your bulletin and discuss how they speak to this issue?

Making it Real:

8) It was said on Sunday that if we're unclear on this issue, we could become insecure about God's love and acceptance of us. How so? Can you think of any other ways this issue affects our walk with Jesus practically?