

Eph. 1:1-14 WE ARE "IN HIM"—"IN CHRIST"!  
June 11, 2023 Pastor Don Talley

[#1] Our **POSITION** in Christ Jesus is so sure that it's as if God has already raised us up into heavenly places!

(Acts 19:23-30; Eph. 2:6; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 1 Pet. 1:3-6)

[#2] When you come to Christ, you have **EVERYTHING** in Him...

...everything you need to live for Jesus, serve Jesus, share Jesus; even **SUFFER** for Jesus!

(1 Tim. 1:14; Rom.1:16; Phil. 4:7; Lam. 3:22-23 NLT; Gal. 5:22; Acts 1:8; 2 Tim. 1:12; 2 Cor. 1:3-4)

[#3] I believe these two contradictory truths are taught in the Scriptures! "**God chose me!**" and "**whosoever will!**"

...I don't know **HOW** they can both be true—but I know they are! The Bible says so.

(Rom. 8:28-29; John 3:16; Eph. 2:4-5; Rom. 11:17)

[#4] Redemption! The Cross is **THE ETERNAL** "Redemption Center!"

[#5] I hope it's sinking in...

*Where are our blessings found? Always "**IN HIM**" ... In Christ..."*

[#6] Grace + **BELIEF** + **NOTHING** = Salvation + obedience!

(John 6:28-29)

Eph. 1:1-14 WE ARE "IN HIM"—"IN CHRIST"!  
June 11, 2023 Pastor Don Talley

[#1] Our \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus is so sure that it's as if God has already raised us up into heavenly places!

(Acts 19:23-30; Eph. 2:6; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 1 Pet. 1:3-6)

[#2] When you come to Christ, you have \_\_\_\_\_ in Him...

...everything you need to live for Jesus, serve Jesus, share Jesus; even \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus!

(1 Tim. 1:14; Rom.1:16; Phil. 4:7; Lam. 3:22-23 NLT; Gal. 5:22; Acts 1:8; 2 Tim. 1:12; 2 Cor. 1:3-4)

[#3] I believe these two contradictory truths are taught in the Scriptures! "**God chose me!**" and "**whosoever will!**"

...I don't know \_\_\_\_\_ they can both be true—but I know they are! The Bible says so.

(Rom. 8:28-29; John 3:16; Eph. 2:4-5; Rom. 11:17)

[#4] Redemption! The Cross is \_\_\_\_\_ "Redemption Center!"

[#5] I hope it's sinking in...

*Where are our blessings found? Always "\_\_\_\_\_ ... In Christ..."*

[#6] Grace + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = Salvation + obedience!

(John 6:28-29)

## **Food for Thought for the week of June 11, 2023**

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

*\*\*Life Groups are on break for the summer. In the meantime, feel free to use the following study questions with your personal devotions!\*\**

1) Paul begins Ephesians 1 reminding us of all that God did and planned. Take a look at all the ways he mentions God's plan, desire, and will:

*(From Ephesians 1) "... He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world... having predestined us to adoption as sons...according to the good pleasure of His will... according to the riches of His grace...made known to us the mystery of His will...according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself...being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will..."*

Why do you think it is so important to know that God is in control and that He has a plan?

Do you think there is a difference between knowing this truth and *living* in this truth? Why or why not?

What are the dangers of not believing or living in this truth?

How does this truth (that God is in control and has a plan) change the way you live each day? Is there something you need to do differently to better live in light of this truth?

How are you most tempted to doubt/forget that God is in control and has a plan?

## **Food for Thought for the week of June 11, 2023**

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

*\*\*Life Groups are on break for the summer. In the meantime, feel free to use the following study questions with your personal devotions!\*\**

1) Paul begins Ephesians 1 reminding us of all that God did and planned. Take a look at all the ways he mentions God's meticulous plan:

*(From Ephesians 1) "... He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world... having predestined us to adoption as sons...according to the good pleasure of His will... according to the riches of His grace...made known to us the mystery of His will...according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself...being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will..."*

Why do you think it is so important to know that God is in control and that He has a plan?

Do you think there is a difference between knowing this truth and *living* in this truth? Why or why not?

What are the dangers of not believing or living in this truth?

How does this truth (that God is in control and has a plan) change the way you live each day? Is there something you need to do differently to better live in light of this truth?

How are you most tempted to doubt/forget that God is in control and has a plan?

2) What stands out to you from the following psalm?

**Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24** - "[1] For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. O LORD, You have searched me and known me. [2] You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. [3] You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. [4] For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. [5] You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. [6] Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. [7] Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? [8] If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. [9] If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, [10] Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. [11] If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; [12] Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. [13] For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. [14] I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. [15] My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. [16] Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. [17] How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! [18] If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.... [23] Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; [24] And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."

2)What stands out to you from the following psalm?

**Psalm 139:1-18, 23-24** - "[1] For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. O LORD, You have searched me and known me. [2] You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. [3] You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. [4] For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. [5] You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. [6] Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. [7] Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? [8] If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. [9] If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, [10] Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. [11] If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; [12] Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. [13] For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. [14] I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. [15] My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. [16] Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. [17] How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! [18] If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.... [23] Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; [24] And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."