

## GOD'S ABSOLUTE BLESSINGS FOR HIS CHILDREN

Ephesians 1:1-23

Key Verse: 1:5

"...he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will...."

1. Memorize chapter 1. Read or recite verses 1-2. How did Paul view his job? What difference does it make to view one's life and work from the point of view of God's sovereignty?
2. Why does he equate "saint" or Christian with "faithful"? What does it mean to be faithful? Why does he bless them with grace and peace from God?
3. Read verses 3-6. How are spiritual blessings different from human blessings? (1Pe 1:24; Ge 3:15; Jn 3:16) Notice the repetition of "in him." What does this show about God's spiritual blessings?
4. What does it mean to be a chosen people? (4,11) What did it mean to Paul? (1Ti 1:15; 1Co 15:9,10; Ac 9:15,16) To Abraham? (Ge 12:2-3; 22:12) To the people of Israel? (Ex 19:4-6a) To us?
5. What did Paul mean by "In love, he predestined...?" (4b-5, 11; Jn 3:16) What does it mean to be adopted as God's sons through Jesus Christ?
6. Read verses 7-8. What does "redemption" suggest about our former state? What does it mean to have redemption through his blood?
7. What is the mystery of his will which he has made known? Read verses 9-14. What is God's great purpose? What is our guarantee? What is our inheritance?
8. Read verses 15-23. What is Paul's prayer for the believers? What is his and our hope? What does he teach about God's power at work in us?
9. What is Paul's great vision of Christ's victory and what does this teach about our ultimate hope and true inheritance? (20b-23)