

# Ephesians: Portraits of Authentic Faith

## The Vocabulary of Salvation: Predestination – Ephesians 1:3-6

### *Message Discussion Guide*

#### Scripture & Message Review

Read Ephesians 1:3, James 1:16-17, & Matthew 6:33.

- When the Bible promises that God will provide EVERY spiritual (*read: important*) blessing, and that all PERFECT gifts are from the Lord, what do you think that means?
- What are some ways people look for blessings, peace, joy, and purpose from sources other than the Lord?
- How would we conduct our lives differently if we really believed that every important thing we needed could be found in the Lord?

Read Ephesians 1:4, Romans 8:29, & Colossians 1:22.

- For what has God chosen us? What does he want us to become? According to these verses, what is the final purpose of our being chosen?
- What part of being holy and blameless is something that we do/change? What part is something God does? How does that partnership work?

Read Deuteronomy 29:29, Isaiah 55:9, & 2 Timothy 3:16.

- Where do we go to find truth?
- What are the limits to what we can know and understand?
- How do those limits influence how we question things we do not understand or cannot reconcile?

Read Ephesians 1:4-5, 1 Timothy 2:3-4, & Romans 10:9.

- Who is said to do the choosing and when is the choosing done according to Ephesians 1:4-5?
- In this same passage, the choosing is according to what?
- What is the heart of God in 1 Timothy 1:3-4?
- What is the good news of Romans 10:9? What is available to everyone?
- How do you manage the tension of these or other Bible doctrines that do not seem to be logically compatible?

#### Big Question

- For what reasons is it the best news in the world to know the biblical truth that God chose us based on his own character before the foundation of the world and that he has an effective plan to make us holy and blameless?

## Bonus Question

- Why did God, the master communicator, not make this matter plainer to us and make it something that no two honest, Jesus-loving, Bible-reading Christians could disagree?

## Scripture for Discussion Questions

- **James 1:16–17 (CSB)** — **16** Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. **17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.
- **Matthew 6:33 (CSB)** — **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.
- **Romans 8:29 (CSB)** — **29** For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.
- **Colossians 1:22 (CSB)** — **22** But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him—
- **Deuteronomy 29:29 (CSB)** — **29** The hidden things belong to the LORD our God, but the revealed things belong to us and our children forever, so that we may follow all the words of this law.
- **Isaiah 55:9 (CSB)** — **9** For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- **2 Timothy 3:16 (CSB)** — **16** All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness,
- **1 Timothy 2:3–4 (CSB)** — **3** This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, **4** who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- **Romans 10:9 (CSB)** — **9** If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.