

**Devotional****Ephesians 1:3-14****January 2, 2022**

*Welcome back to the sermon-based devotional! The dream is that this little weekly devotional will help keep you connected to God and His Word by linking you back to what we talked about in the sermon on Sunday. Blessings on your time with God!*

**Monday**

Read Ephesians 1:3-14

Before this universe we see around us came into being, God had you and your life in mind and chose you to be adopted by Jesus Christ to experience the riches of God's love and grace. It is hard to conceive of such a thing, but God gives it to us in scripture right there. It is certainly – or certainly should be – a humbling thought. Sometimes, it is such a humbling thought that people deny it in the old George Carlin sense of not wanting to belong to a club that would have you as a member. It is true... you are unworthy of being chosen by God. The only one not unworthy is Jesus and Jesus died and was resurrected to ensure that you are chosen for eternity into God's love.

We are called to respond with humility and praise at being elected by God to receive his grace. We are not called to deny God's choice because we feel unworthy... God also knows you aren't worthy by your own merits, that's why God chooses you through the grace of Christ. So, after you get done reading this sentence, put down your life for a few minutes and revel in the wonder that God moved heaven and earth in Jesus Christ to choose you to receive eternal love and grace.

**Tuesday**

Read Colossians 1:15-23 (focus on vv. 21-23)

God does some amazing things through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit for us if we will just believe that God had done it, is doing it, and will bring it to completion (which is a good way to think of v.

23's "continuing in the faith..."). We gave quick definition of some terms that apply to you in Jesus and its handy to know them. Get a sense of them today and for the rest of the week:

**Redeemed** – To be redeemed is to be delivered from a situation or from enemies by paying a price to buy back the person or thing being ransomed. In our case, Jesus Christ paid the price of our sin by becoming sin himself and dying on the cross so that we would not have to eternally suffer for our sins and sinfulness. Jesus redeemed us from spiritual death to new life.

**Justified** – To be justified is to be declared righteous. God chooses you to be his child through adoption into Jesus Christ and because you are in Christ, you are declared righteous.

**Sanctified** – To be sanctified is to be made holy. We are made holy because God chose us to be set apart and holy to give praise to His name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Glorified** – To be glorified refers to how we will eternally experience the splendor and presence of God eternally in Christ.

**Wednesday**

Read Ephesians 1:3-14

What a tremendous blessing we have – to be chosen by God to be redeemed, justified, sanctified, and glorified by God's love and grace for us in Jesus Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit! And not just a blessing but an inheritance. We know what we will receive in the future because Jesus Christ has already secured it for us in his life, death, and resurrection, and we hear its promise in God's Word today. God's Word will not change – He is not writing a new will if you go a bit astray and disinheriting you – your inheritance is secure in Jesus Christ.

How does this knowledge put your worries and concerns about 2022 in a new light? How will you live differently?

## **Thursday**

Read John 1:4-5... the light of who?

We are called to respond to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and all he bestows upon us as his adopted sons and daughters in many ways and Paul highlights at least two in Ephesians: the visible unity of the global church as a sign of the rule of Jesus Christ and the practice of love.

Each Sunday in 2022, we will pray for a country where it is very dangerous to be a Christian as a foundational act of uniting with Jesus' people. You can find the resource we use here:

<https://resources.opendoorsusa.org/resource-world-watch-list/>

Today, please pray again for North Korea.

Also, pray for your own renewal and transformation into greater Christ-likeness and for that of all at Cooks Creek. And pray for those known to you who need an introduction or re-introduction to Jesus as Lord and Savior and who could also use a church home.

## **Friday**

Our customary practice on Fridays is to read and reflect on the scripture we will use for the coming Sunday. Today, please read and reflect upon Isaiah 43:1-7 and Luke 3:15-22.