

EPHESIANS: IN CHRIST, IN COMMUNITY

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ICEBREAKER: What helps you understand the concept of eternity - something being always and forever?

READ: EPHESIANS 1:1-14

We continue this week exploring the first 14 verses of Ephesians. Last week Pastor David talked of the three aspects about which the apostle Paul writes in verses 3,5 and 9 that God has: Blessed us. Predestined us . Enlightened us.

1. What do those three themes mean for your life?

DIGGING DEEPER

This week we look at the eternal aspect of God: He was in the past. He is in the present. He will be in the future.

These two aspects remind us of Cold Springs' vision: "Through a radical dependence upon God, we strive to see Him pull back the curtain of heaven so our church, our community and our world more fully experience the Kingdom of God. We pray and work for God's Kingdom to come, his will to be done here in our community and our world, just like it is in heaven."

2. As Jesus followers we live in the tension of, "already and not yet." How do 1 Corinthians 1:7, Ephesians 2:19, Philippians 3:20-21 speak into this tension?

The Holy Spirit empowers us to live purposely in this world while citizens of another: heaven (see Acts 1:8, Eph. 3:16).

3. When you think of the fact that God was, is and always shall be, what hope does that give you?

4. What does it mean to be sealed with the Holy Spirit (vv.13-14)?

5. How does having an eternal hope effect what you believe about your present?

6. What difference does the following phrase make in your everyday actions: "eternity starts today."