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| |  | | --- | | SUMMARY: Excitement and passion are hard emotions to contain. When a child, or adult for that matter, is filled with excitement, their joy just pours out of them. For the Apostle Paul, his excitement was about the message he preached, that God in his fullest expression had made himself known and accessible through the person of Jesus.  In Ephesians 1:3-14, he pours it all out in a single sentence, expressing some of the deepest and most profound truths in a single breath. This was what filled Paul’s heart with joy, passion and excitement and he wanted the Ephesian church to know it too.  This opening outpour is not simply because Paul is excited though, these words provide the foundation of everything that this letter and the Christian faith is all about. These twelve verses are the root system of the Christian faith as a whole.  It is therefore up to us to slow down and pull apart the profound truths that Paul passes over in a single breath. We must do the work to understand what these things mean to us today.  It begins and ends with a single idea, praise. This is the point of it all. We were made to worship for the praise of his glory. Everything between these two bookends tells us why.  It begins with the work of the father blessing us and ordaining every single moment before anything (including time) existed. He then moves onto the work of the son, the One the father loves. The son is the agent of the father, fulfilling his will in every possible way. It then closes with the spirit, the seal of assurance. There is so much in here but it’s all about one thing, praise. Is that what this passage leads you to? |  Ephesians 1:3-14 |  | |  | | --- | | Gasping At God  1. Why do you think Paul wrote this section (1:3-14) without a single full stop? 2. What makes praise so important to this section? 3. Why do you think Paul began by looking at God the father? 4. In both verses 5&11, he speaks about predestination. What does that mean? 5. What does “in accordance to his pleasure and will” mean and why is that important? (v.5) 6. Why does Paul highlight the relationship between God the Father and God the Son? (v.6) 7. What are the primary roles of the Son according to verses 7-10? 8. Why is the term “in him” so central to this passage? (Count how many times it’s used) 9. What is the ultimate mission of Jesus? (See v.10) What does that mean? 10. At what point does someone become a Christian? (v.13) 11. What does this section imply is the seal of the Holy Spirit? (v.13) 12. Is our redemption complete? What are we waiting for? | |