

Day One – Ephesians 1:1-14

I. Background Information

- Apostle (v 1): this literally means someone sent with a message. The apostles were the small group of followers Jesus chose to lead the church after He would die.
- Ephesus (v 1): a major urban center of Asia on the Aegean Sea. The first century population is estimated at 300,000, making it one of the larger cities of the Roman empire. It was extremely prosperous as a commercial center, provincial capital, and port city. It was known for its many monuments, theaters, and temples and was an international tourist center. It was so profitable that its leaders operated the first world bank. It was filled with political fighting, divided between the rich and a poor dehumanized underclass. There is more written about this church than any other in the New Testament. You can read more about its beginnings in Acts 18-20.
- Grace (v 2): this is when we are given a gift or favor which we do not deserve.
- Spiritual gift from the heavenly world (v 3): in this chapter, this is another way of saying God has given us everything we need for our relationship with Him.

II. Read Passage

- Underline main ideas as you read.
- Especially notice all of the things God has done for his people.

III. Summary

Paul begins this letter with much enthusiasm. Even though he is in prison, it seems like he was having a good day! He simply reminds us of how blessed we are that God has done so much for us through Jesus. He especially stresses that this was God's plan from before the beginning of the world (v 4,5,9,10,11).

IV. Daily Thoughts (write out your answers)

1. What did you learn today? Write down a few thoughts you have about what you read.
2. What questions do you have after reading and thinking?
3. Is there anything you think God wants you to do based on what you read today?
4. For what people or situations do you need to thank God today?
5. For what people or situations do you need to ask God's help today?
6. Take time to talk to God about these things. (talk and listen)