

THE MYSTERY OF LIFE REVEALED

EPHESIANS - PART 1

Introduction – Trying to determine who you are and what your purpose is in this life is confusing. The point to our existence is beyond our human capacities to understand on our own without Divine revelation.

A. Praise God because He has made known to us the mystery of His will in Jesus .

Ephesians 1:3-10

1. The key to understanding this mystery is its Christ-centered nature. It is not focused on the individual perspective, but a community perspective. There are 12-13 examples of this in these eight verses.
2. Every possible Spirit-empowered blessing is ours in Christ.
3. We were the CHOSEN people of God before the creation of the world.
4. Our purpose is to become holy and blameless in God's vision of us.
5. We are predestined for adoption through Jesus Christ.
6. God's GRACE is glorious, freely given to us, and richly lavished on us.
7. In Jesus we have redemption through the blood sacrifice at the cross, which we experience as the forgiveness of our sins.
8. God's big-picture purpose in Jesus is to unify all things in heaven and on earth under the leadership of Christ.

Romans 8:19-22

B. God's predestined plan for us

Ephesians 1:11-14

1. We are included in this predestined plan of God when we believe the message of truth, the gospel.
2. The promised Holy Spirit is a seal, marking us as God's chosen people in Jesus Christ.
3. The indwelling Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our future inheritance.

2 Peter 3:13

4. We are God's precious possession, who are called to live to the praise of his glory.

Exodus 19:4-6

1 Peter 2:9-10

Conclusion – We have been included in the chosen community of God's forever-people. Our purpose is to live Spirit-empowered lives here and look forward to our inheritance as a NEW CREATION IN CHRIST. The rest of the Ephesian letter unpacks what this means for us as followers of the crucified and resurrected Savior.

Discussion Questions

1. How is the ultimate purpose of God for us Christ-centered?
2. What difference does it make if we interpret predestination, chosen, etc., as a community promise rather than an individual one?
3. How do baptism and the Lord's Supper take their meaning from this Christ-centered perspective?