

Exercising My Understanding

1. God desires His children to be _____ and without blame. (Ephesians 1:3-4)
2. God wanted Jesus to be the _____ among many brothers. (Romans 8:29)
3. In Christ, God's children have obtained an _____. (Ephesians 1:11)
4. Those who believed the word of truth have been sealed with the _____ of promise. (Ephesians 1:13-14)
5. Paul said the manifold _____ of God would be made known by the church. (Ephesians 3:10)
6. What became flesh and dwelt among the world? (John 1:1-5, 14)
7. In talking about Jesus, Paul said Jesus is the _____ of the invisible God. (Colossians 1:15)
8. What is made available through the blood of Jesus Christ? (Ephesians 1:7)
9. Jesus will Jesus one day deliver the _____ to God, His Father. (1 Corinthians 15:24-25)
10. Those who do the commandments will have the right to the tree of _____. (Revelation 22:14)

Next Lesson:

Creation, Man, and Sin

God's Plan for Man

Lesson 1: God's Plan from the Beginning

A. God had a plan for His children.

1. God desired to have holy children. (Ephesians 1:3-6)
 - * God "*chose us in Him before the foundation of the world*" (vs 4).
 - * God chose us to be "*holy and without blame before Him in love*" (vs 4).
 - * God "*predestined us to adoptions as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself*" (cf. Hebrews 2:10; Galatians 4:4-6).
 - * God made us "*accepted in the Beloved.*"
2. God's children would be conformed to the image of God's first born, the one who would pay the ransom with His blood. (Romans 8:29)
3. God planned an inheritance for his children and would give the Holy Spirit as a guarantee. (Ephesians 1:11-14)
 - * An inheritance would be obtained (vs 11).
 - * All things would be according to "*the counsel of His will*" (vs 11).
 - * God's children were "*sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.*" The Holy Spirit is "*the guarantee*" of the inheritance until "*the redemption of the purchased possession*" (vs 13-14).

God's Desire

To bring many holy and accepted sons to glory through Jesus the Christ. These adopted sons would be accepted in the Beloved and conformed to His image.

4. God's desire for His children would be a mystery revealed. (Ephesians 1:9-12)

- ✳ God would make known through the apostles "the mystery of His will" which He purposed in Himself (vs 9).
- ✳ In the process of time God would "gather together in one all things in Christ" (vs 10).
- ✳ This mystery, which from the beginning was hidden, has now been made known through the "manifold wisdom of God." This is according to God's eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 3:8-11)

B. Jesus the Christ would be the means through which God's desire for His children would be accomplished.

1. In the beginning, all things were made by the Word. (John 1:1-5, 14)

- ✳ The Word was "with God, and the Word was God" (vs 1).
- ✳ He, the Word, was present in the "beginning with God" (vs 2).
- ✳ All things were made through the Word "and without Him nothing was made that was made" (vs 3).
- ✳ In the Word was "life, and the life was the light of men" (vs 4).
- ✳ The Word "became flesh and dwelt among" men as Jesus, the Christ (vs 14).

2. The apostle Paul spoke of Jesus' role in creation. (Colossians 1:15-17)

- ✳ Jesus the Christ is the "image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" (vs 15).

✳ By Jesus the Christ "all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth" (vs 16).

✳ "All things were created through" Christ and for Christ (vs 16).

✳ Jesus the Christ is "before all things, and in Him all things consist" (vs 17).

3. Jesus would give His physical life as the ransom price for God's children. (Ephesians 1:7-8)

✳ Man voluntarily sold himself into sin.

✳ The ransom price for man would ultimately be the blood of Jesus Christ, God's first born (vs 7)

✳ God has grace on His children, a grace made possible though the redemption found in Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:24-25)

✳ By His blood, Jesus secured an eternal redemption so God's children could be holy. (Hebrews 9:12)

4. Jesus the Christ will deliver holy children to the heavenly Father.

✳ Jesus will deliver the kingdom to the Father. (1 Corinthians 15:24)

✳ All the disobedient will be punished. (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8)

✳ At this time, God will destroy the physical universe which He had created in the beginning. (2 Peter 3:9-12)

✳ The faithful will have access to the tree of life. (Revelation 2:7; 22:2, 14, 19)

