

**“PLANNED GRACE”**  
**The Extraordinary Gift of Grace #2**  
**Ephesians 1:3-14**  
**December 13, 2020**

**God has a Plan and is in Control!** *“I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”* Job 42:2

*And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered before the world was made.* Revelation 13:8

*It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. <sup>20</sup> God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.* 1 Peter 1:19-20

**The Beauty of a Plan that Will Never Fail:**

**1. The Father’s Plan to Love You!** *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.* Ephesians 1:4-6

<sup>28</sup> *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.* Romans 8:28-30

**2. The Son’s Plan to Rescue You!** *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ...* Ephesians 1:7-9

**3. The Holy Spirit’s Guarantee that God will Deliver all He has Promised!** *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.* Ephesians 1:13-14

**THE JOURNEY DEVOTIONAL**  
**December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Week**  
**Discussion Questions from the Sermon**

1. What was something you read in the weekly Scripture readings or heard in the sermon that made an impact on you? Explain.
2. Read Ephesians 1:3-14 slowly. What does this passage teach us about God's plan? What questions does it raise for you? How does it encourage and inspire you?
3. In the sermon we talked about each aspect of the Holy Trinity when it comes to the plan of God. What is the involvement of each Person of the Holy Trinity?
4. How would you explain the Father's plan to love you? How would you explain the Son's plan to save you? How would you explain the Spirit's role as a guarantee?
5. Many people struggle with the idea that God chooses those who will believe. Where do you see this teaching in this Ephesians passage as well as in Romans 8:28-30? How is this teaching consistent with the Old Testament selection of Israel?
6. One of the great blessings of Divine Election is that God chooses and so prepares people to believe. So, we know that when we share the gospel there will be some who will respond. With whom is the Lord calling you to share the gospel?

**Weekly Bible Memory Verse:** *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.* Ephesians 1:4-6

**Bible Readings:** Reading these passages of Scripture will help you become like Jesus in how you think and what you do, in addition to preparing you for next week's sermon. Remember to read these passages slowly, allowing the Lord to speak to your heart and mind:

Monday – Ephesians 2:1-10  
Tuesday – John 10:22-42  
Wednesday – John 11:38-44  
Thursday – Colossians 1:28-2:5  
Friday – Colossians 2:6-15  
Saturday – Galatians 3:23-4:7  
Sunday – Ephesians 2:1-10