



## Being Men of God in a Dark World

High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study | Ephesians 1 – Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Most of us would have to admit we're living in dark times. What used to be right is often considered wrong, and standing for the right things can often result in criticism and even public backlash. Paul's letter to the Ephesians is a book for a "time such as this." The early church in the ancient city of Ephesus faced similar challenges as we do today in being disciples of Jesus. The pagan culture did not recognize God and certainly did not see Jesus as God's Son. In his letter, Paul addresses some of the most important Christian concepts contained in the Bible including the Holy Spirit, salvation, spiritual warfare, marriage, and even parenting. May the Lord use this book to impact us all to be more like Jesus!

### Overview of Chapter 1

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| Verses 1–2   | Introduction and salutations                                 |
| Verses 3-14  | God's spiritual blessing through election and predestination |
| Verses 15-23 | Thanksgiving and prayer                                      |

1. Read verses 1 and 2. To whom did Paul specifically write the book (letter) of Ephesians? Why is this important for us to know?
2. The first chapter of Ephesians is one of the most profound texts in the entire Bible. Before reading verses 3-14, answer the following questions.
  - a. Make a list of all the ways it is taught that men can be saved and go to Heaven? Feel free to include what you might have been taught growing up.
  - b. Of the above list, how many can be defended Biblically?
3. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. In these verses Paul uses the words *chosen* and *predestination*. Unfortunately, this concept has been a subject of debate for centuries in the church. Let's just read the text.
  - a. What is God's purpose in choosing us?
  - b. What does it mean to be holy and blameless? Is this even possible as a human?

