

Lesson three

Read Ephesians chapter one.

Spiritual understanding

1. How does Paul describe the extent of God's grace on believers? vs. 8a

He lavished it on us

2. One of the things God lavishes on those who trust in Him, is a supernatural wisdom to understand spiritual things. What is one of things that we can now begin to understand? vs. 9

The mystery of His will

3. What is God's will concerning the Gentiles (previously a mystery) that Paul identifies in Eph. 3:6?

That the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body and share in the promises in Christ

4. I Cor. 2:10-16 explains in more detail about the spiritual wisdom and understanding that believers have.

Why doesn't natural (unbelieving) man understand spiritual things?

They seem like foolishness to him because they are spiritually discerned.

What great advantage is given to believers?

We have the Spirit to help us.

5. Eph. 1:10 talks about "the summing up of all things in Christ" Compare I Cor. 15:24-28. What does it mean that all things will be summed up in Christ and when will this happen?

Christ will have all things under His rule & then He will give that authority back to God the Father - in the end times

6. What is God's ultimate goal? Compare Eph. 1:10 with Phil. 2:9-11.

That every knee will bow to Christ & every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord

Notice the word "inheritance" in Ephesians 1:11 from the NASV:

"also we have obtained an **inheritance**, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will..."

Scholars have debated whether this means believers have obtained an inheritance or believers are the inheritance. Let's explore both possibilities.

7. Is it consistent with other Scripture that believers have **obtained** an inheritance? Compare I Peter 1:3 & 4

Yes - it can never perish, spoil or fade - it is kept in Heaven for us

8. Are believers ever referred to **as** an inheritance? Consider John 6:37-39, John 10:29, John 17:2 & 24

God called people out to be believers & He gives them to Christ like a gift (or an inheritance)

Both of these thoughts are true. Believers are adopted as God's children and promised an inheritance as joint heirs with Christ. But believers are also given by God as a gift to His Son, thus we become an inheritance to Christ.

9. What was Paul confident of in Phil. 1:6

He who began a good work in us will complete it before the day of the Lord

10. From Ephesians 1:12, what is the goal that His plan is leading to? (Those who "were the first to hope in Christ" probably refers to the Jews.)

That the Jews would praise Him & give Him glory

11. What had been the reaction of the Ephesians when they heard the "message of truth, the gospel of your salvation" and what happened as a result?? (vs. 13)

They believed & were sealed by the Spirit who is a deposit of our inheritance

12. What did Jesus promise to His followers in John 14:25 & 26?

The Spirit, the Counselor, would come and teach them and remind them of things Jesus had said

13. The Holy Spirit is given as a [deposit](#) (Compare Ephesians 1:13 & 14 with II Cor. 1:22 & 5:5)

14. A pledge could also be referred to as a down-payment or a guarantee. The Holy Spirit is given as a down-payment on the rest of our inheritance which is still in the future. When will we receive the rest of our inheritance? (Ephesians 1:14)

[At the redemption of all believers](#)

15. This inheritance will include our adoption as sons and the [redemption of our bodies](#). (Romans 8:23) see also I Cor. 15:35-50

16. Do all believers have the Holy Spirit? (Read Romans 8:9 & 10)

[Yes, if we don't have the Spirit, we don't belong to Him.](#)

17. When God redeems us as His possession, it will be to the praise of [His glory](#). (Ephesians 1:6, 12 & 14)