

The Main Idea in Ephesians: God is Sovereign. God Acts According to His Eternal Plan. God Controls the Events of Time and Eternity

or

***Focus On What Scripture Reveals About What God Does
... To Understand a Little More of What God Is Like***

Scripture Ephesians 1:1– 6:24

Today's Study *How does God's sovereignty relate to my faith and daily living?*

- ① 1:1a God gives apostleship to the people of His choice.

- ② 1:1b-2 God is the Source and Supplier of each believer's grace and peace.

- ③ 1:3-14 Before the creation of the world, God predetermined and guaranteed each believer's eternal destiny according to His will and for His glory.
According to His purpose God blesses, chooses, gives spiritual life to, makes perfect before Him – and informs – the people of His choice.

- ④ 1:15-23 God the Father gives faith, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. God rules over all things. God created, rules, and fills the church.

- ⑤ 2:1-10 God loved each and every believer – while believers were dead in sin and unable to believe. God gives spiritual life to each believer, extends grace, gives faith, and has prepared good works for each believer to do.

- ⑥ 2:11–3:21 God previously chose to separate Jews and Gentiles. God now chooses to join Jews and Gentiles into one people, fellow citizens, one family, one building . . . according to His eternal purpose. God’s love greatly exceeds our ability to understand! God deserves all the glory!
- ⑦ 4:1-32 God has created one Body – the Church – and has given the spiritual gifts of His choice to the individual believers of His choice . . . which gifts are to be used to build up all believers. God instructs believers to be kind.
- ⑧ 5:1 – 6:9 God has determined how people should live with each other in families.
- ⑨ 6:10-17 God has determined how believers should fight and win spiritual warfare.
- ⑩ 6:18-20 God has determined how believers should relate to other believers who are in difficult and dangerous circumstances.
- ⑪ 6:23-24 God is the Supreme Source of peace, love, faith and grace.

*I should see God’s eternal plan and sovereign power
as the foundation and assurance of my temporal and eternal hope!*

- **The “Big Idea” – *the Main, Recurring Theme of Ephesians* – is God’s Supremacy . . . including God’s Personal, Active, Effective, Sovereign Control of Human Events.**

– God Appoints, God Gives, God Chooses, God Predestines According to His Loving Will, God Determines End Results, God Acts According to His Purpose, God Works to the Praise of His Glory, God Gives Eternal Life to the Spiritually Dead, God Prepares Good Works Beforehand, God Separates Peoples and Joins Peoples, God is Over All – Through All – In All, God Gives Gifts to the Church, God Seals for the Day of Redemption, God Supplies Armor and Weapons Sufficient to Stand Firm in the Spiritual War, God Comforts . . . God Provides Sovereign Peace, Love, Faith, and Grace

PRINCIPLES FOR LIVING

[“Principles for Living” are (1) restatements of the truth found in the Scripture text, or (2) valid conclusions based on that truth. These “Principles for Living” are general principles for living faithful to God – as seen in this study of Ephesians.]

1. The most important part of Scripture – the part of Scripture that is most helpful in understanding life and living faithful – is that Scripture reveals Who God is . . . by telling us what God does.
2. What a believer in a very difficult situation needs most is the comfort and confidence that comes from knowing God is in sovereign control of all elements of that particular situation!
3. What believers living in a spiritually challenging situation need most is assurance that God has – and is exercising – sovereign control of all the elements of their specific environment. Every believer’s eternal future is just as certain as God’s actions for every believer in the past!
4. For people who are “overwhelmed” by difficult circumstances, there is no more relevant and comforting truth than the sovereignty of God – God’s absolute control over the circumstances of time and eternity.

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS

If you think a Principle for Living is true, think of a way it applies to your personal situation – a specific truth you should believe, a specific way you should think, or a specific action you should take in an actual situation of your life.

MEMORY VERSE Ephesians 1:3-6 (NASB95)

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ¹

FOLLOW-UP

1. Memorize Ephesians 1:3-6. Thank God for revealing these great truths!
2. Create one Personal Application based on each Principle for Living you understand is based on the Scripture of this study.

Indicate how the general truth – for all believers – of this Principle For Living, relates personally and practically to you . . . specifically how this PFL relates to your personal obedience to God.

3. Follow-up Using the printed-out Scriptures, read the first section. How would you summarize that this section indicates about what God does? Write down your summary. Compare what you wrote down to my summary statement for section 1. What does this understanding of what God does indicate to you about Who God is?

Do the same for each of sections 2 through 11.

4. Summarize your current understanding of what Ephesians reveals about what God does (1 paragraph).
5. Summarize your current understanding of what Ephesians reveals about Who God is (1 paragraph).

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK's SERMON

Read Romans 8:18-39. What is the Main Idea of this Scripture?
What does this Scripture reveal about what God does and Who God is?

¹ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update.* (1995). (Ephesians 1:3-5). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.