**September 16, 2018 Sermon and Community Group Notes**

* Read Ephesians 1:3–14

**#3 Redeemed and Forgiven (Ephesians 1:7)**

* + Supporting Scriptures:

**John 8:34** *Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.”*

**Isaiah 1:18** *Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.*

* What is redemption? What does it mean that we have been redeemed through Jesus’ blood?
* What does it mean that we have been forgiven of our sins?

**#4 Wise (Ephesians 1:8-10)**

* + Supporting Scriptures:

**1 Corinthians 2:12, 14** *Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (14) The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

* What does it mean that through Jesus we have received wisdom from God?
* What mystery has God revealed to us?
* How is everything united together through Jesus Christ?

**#5 Inheritance (Ephesians 1:11)**

* + Supporting Scriptures:

**Galatians 4:4-7** *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, (5) to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (6) And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” (7) So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.*

**1 Peter 1:3-4** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you*

* What does it mean that through Jesus we have received an inheritance?
* What is our inheritance?
* Who receives this inheritance (see 1:12)?

**#6 Spirit-sealed (Ephesians 1:13)**

* + Supporting Scriptures:

**Romans 8:16** *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God*

**Romans 10:9-10** *if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*

* What does it mean that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit?
* When are we sealed with the Holy Spirit?
* Are you sealed with the Holy Spirit?

**#7 Eternal Life (Ephesians 1:14)**

* + Supporting Scriptures:

**1 John 5:13** *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*

* What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance?

* If salvation is phase I of redemption, then what is phase II?
* Do you know that you have eternal life?

**Conclusion:**

* Salvation: do you know that you are “in Christ”, i.e. that you are saved, that you have placed your trust in Christ?
* Walking with Christ: if you are saved, what is your identity? To what extent do you define yourself with these 7 blessings?
* How would choosing to define yourself according to these 7 blessings change the way you live? The way you think about God? About yourself? The way you relate to others?