

# EPHESIANS

MYSTERY REVEALED

February 13, 2016

One of the great questions of the bible is how God will bring all things back under his authority and direction without destroying everyone and everything. In the book of Ephesians, Paul will bring some light to this great question in the writing of his letter to faithful followers of Christ Jesus.

Paul's letter starts off by making the point that God is the father of Jesus Christ and that it is through Christ we are blessed by God. Paul then describes the profound blessing from God that he *chose us before* the world was ever created. God *adopted* us as his own children and *redeemed* us through the precious, priceless blood of Christ. God does this not for our glory but for His own; nothing man can do can ever outdo what God has already done for his creation.

Questions:

1. As Christians we believe in God as our heavenly father, transcendent or supreme over us. How does that differ from what society places as priorities in our culture?
2. Paul says in Ephesians 4: 5 "God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ." This introduces the controversial idea of predestination. Matt draws the analogy between predestination and human adoption of children. How can this analogy keep us from being fearful of God's power?
3. If God loved us before we were ever created (Eph 4:4), how should this affect our tendency to want to "earn" our salvation?
4. Paul uses extravagant language to praise God for his blessings. Think of the last time you praised God for something. What did you praise Him for? How did you express your gratitude?