

YES, NO & MAYBE

Part I: SEATED

DIG DEEPER

1. I am more blessed than the people sitting on either side of me.
2. God predestines people to be saved.
3. You can have predestination and free will at the same time.
4. My salvation is guaranteed.
5. The opposite of the Mark of the Beast is the Mark of the Holy Spirit.

> READ Ephesians 1:1-14 (NIV)

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.** 4 For he **chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.**

11 In him we were also **chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.**

>> The Setting - Ephesus

• Population estimated at 300,000. Capital city of the Roman province of Asia, in modern Turkey. A leading trade center in Roman Empire. Center of the worship of pagan goddess Diana. The temple of Diana was one of the wonders of the ancient world. A beautiful city, very sophisticated, wealthy, and pagan.

>> The Message of the Entire Letter



• SEATED - Ch. 1-3: You have been SEATED with Christ (Your Identity).



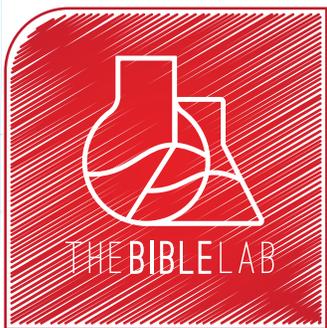
• WALKING - Ch. 4-6:9: WALK worthy of your Gospel calling.



• STANDING - Ch. 6:10-23: STAND firm in the face of any spiritual opposition.

« (vs 3) What do you think it means to be blessed in heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing?

« (vs 4,5, 11) These verses says that God chose you before creation and predestined you according to a plan. What might this say about you...And what does it say about God?



DIG DEEPER...CONTINUED

• (vs 5) **Predestined:** the Greek *proorisas* means literally “marked out beforehand”.

• (vs 5) **Adoption:** William Barclay writes of this Roman concept of adoption in his commentary on Ephesians: “When the adoption was complete it was complete indeed. The person who had been adopted had all the rights of a legitimate son in his new family and completely lost all rights in his old family. In the eyes of the law he was a new person. So new was he that even all debts and obligations connected with his previous family were abolished as if they had never existed” (*The Letters to Galatians and Ephesians, The Daily Study Bible, Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1959, 91-92*).

« What does God’s adoption mean to you personally?

• (vs 13,14) **Marked With a Seal/Deposit Guaranteeing:** The mark is the Holy Spirit, and the word used here for “deposit” is significantly the same word used in modern Greek for an engagement ring.

« How is this “mark” or “seal” important for us to understand in order that we might understand our identity in Christ correctly?

◦ How should we view this life in the perspective that we are wearing God’s engagement ring (deposit)?

« What portions of God’s inheritance do you think that we give too little attention to?

« When God refers to us as His “possessions,” what does that reveal to you about His character?



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MY PRAYER...

1. Do I live daily like I’m sealed and guaranteed spiritually by the Holy Spirit?
2. What aspects of God’s adoption to I need to let fully sink in to my mind?
3. What new aspect of God’s character does He want me to know?

