

Bible Study for December 28 – January 3

You are encouraged to take some time to reflect on the scripture and the questions provided either individually, or with members of your household.

Read: Ephesians 1:1-14

Notes:

It might seem odd to wish you a “Merry Christmas” at this time of year because, for most, Christmas is over. And yet the Christian Church does still celebrate Christmas because the Christmas season doesn’t actually begin until Christmas Eve and continues on for 12 days, until January 6, the day of Epiphany. In many ways, it is backwards to the way the world celebrates Christmas, beginning a month or more before the event, and then forgetting about it directly afterwards; sometimes leaving feelings of being let down. We however, need to cling to the event so that we remember not only that Christ was born, but why he was born. He was born so that we could all become children of God.

In our lesson for today, we find that in Jesus, all of God’s plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God’s children and have been promised eternal salvation.

Questions to Ponder:

What is the best medicine for you when you get down in the dumps?

What do you think is Paul’s tone of voice as he invokes this blessing?

Looking at verses 3-9, describe the “blessings in Christ”. How do they relate to praising God?

How does being chosen by God (verse 4) relate to our believing in verse 13? Who are the *we* and the *you* mentioned here?

What phrases in this reading define your reason to live?

How do you know if you are “chosen”? Knowing you are adopted, how will you view yourself and God differently?

What changes in your life might help you more effectively praise God this week?