**CONNECT GROUP STUDY**

The apostle Paul uses the words *“in Christ”* or *“in Him (whom)”* over 100 times. It is one of his favorite phrases and is both theologically rich and practically important. In the weeks to come, we’re going to unpack some of these verses to see what’s true of you when you are in Christ.

Big Idea: When you are in Christ, all that is true of Him changes what is true of you.

CONNECT: Chose one of the following questions to start your discussion:

* If someone were to offer you 40 years of extraordinary wealth in return for your soul, how tempted would you be to take it?

Why or why not?

* What excites you most about God’s relationship to you?

EXPLORE: Read Ephesians 1:1-14 and discuss the following...

1. What reasons are given for God being praised?
2. Who all has he blessed and where?
3. What are God’s riches and promises in Christ?
4. What plans has God made for you in Christ?
5. What does “in Christ” mean?

APPLY:How does being chosen by God change the way you view yourself and God differently?

What changes in your thinking would help you live out who you are in Christ?

PRAYER:Pray back to God Psalm 139:13-18 -- Thank him for creating you, knowing you and choosing you.



May 3, 2015

David Beroth, Lead Pastor

*Notes available via the live feature on YouVersion.com*

**What does it mean to be “in Christ”?**

**The Big Idea: When you are in Christ, all that is true of Him changes what is true of you.**

Ephesians 1:1-14

 *1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God’s holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: 2Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

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

 *11In 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, 12in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13And 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, 14who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.*

vs. 1 We are called “the faithful in Christ.”

vs. 3 God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

vs. 4 God chose us in Christ.

vs. 6 God has freely given us grace in Christ.

vs. 7 We have redemption, the forgiveness of sins in Christ.

vs. 9 God made known the mystery of His will in Christ.

 vs. 11 We were chosen in Christ.

 vs. 12 We put our hope in Christ.

 vs. 13 We were included in Christ.

 vs. 13 We were marked in Christ with the seal of the Holy Spirit.

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Ephesians 2:4-6 *4But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,*

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2 Corinthians 5:17Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Colossians 2:6-7 *6So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*