

Sermon: Salvation's Plan

April 18, 2021

Scripture: Ephesians 1:1-6

I. Salutation. Ephesians 1:1-2

1. The author. John 1:12-13; 1 Corinthians 15:9-10

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 2:19-22;  
Colossians 1:13-14

3. The inspiration for the letter is God.

II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God the Father.

1. We have spiritual blessings *in Christ*. (3) Ephesians 2:6

2. We are \_\_\_\_\_ *in him*. (4)  
Romans 3:10-11; Luke 19:10 Romans 3:22-26 John 13:31-33:  
Leviticus 16:15-17

3. I am adopted into God's family *by Jesus Christ*. (5) John 1:12  
Galatians 4:6-7

4. I am \_\_\_\_\_ before God *in Christ*. Colossians 2:9-10 Romans 8:28-30

**Thought for the Day** Who am I? What is my identity? That is the question of the day in our world. Dr. Dino Pedrone writes; "when we get saved, we a new identity card recognizing us as sons and daughters of God; citizens of a kingdom ruled by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. "Life for everyone is a journey. People in the world are searching and that search can only end when they find Jesus. The problem is the world is not looking for Jesus. In fact, the world is trying to prove Jesus doesn't exist and that man is the ultimate authority. That way anything that feels good becomes the truth. Based on that truth the world is rapidly approaching a place where everyone does what is right in his own eyes. Ephesians is a letter written by Paul to remind people of who they are in Christ and how they can live out the laws of the kingdom they belong to. He tells us we are chosen by Him before the foundation of the world. He determined that we would be made righteous through faith in Jesus shed blood for us on the cross. We are adopted, accepted, and redeemed by God's predetermined plan and He is faithful to be true to His word. The truth is we are blood bought sons and daughters of the living God. As sons and daughters, we have the invitation to walk through this world being led by Christ as he is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. The main idea of today's message is we are chosen by God the Father to be accepted through our relationship with Jesus. This is not a I hope so truth it is a real truth. When I know it is true it defines in my mind who I am because I realized whos' I am. **Pastor Bruce**

What's happening with our Youth Ministry today?

## Junior Disciples: AM Church Service

Today we are continuing curriculum called "The Core". Over the next year we'll be learning about the 8 "roots" of discipleship, Apologetics, Community, Identity, Kingdom, Knowledge, Outreach, Rescue and Worship. This week we'll continue our "Kingdom" root. The world has trained us to expect life to work in a specific way: the survival of the fittest. The mighty and forceful will always win over the weak and humble. What's the best way to succeed? By putting yourself first and others last. You see this in businesses, grad school, and even on the childhood playground. The most successful people push others around and look out for "number one." But God's kingdom works in unexpected ways. This lesson focuses on the principle that Jesus teaches his followers: the last shall be first, and the first shall be last. God chooses the lowly and the servants of the world to take up his great mission. Those who put others down for their own benefit will find the new economy of God's kingdom a hard pill to swallow. There is also a parent's guide that goes along with these lessons that includes activities your families can do to continue learning during the week. Please let me know if you are not receiving my emails.

## Senior High Youth Group: Thursday Nights at 7 PM

On Thursday nights our senior high youth group will be meeting in the youth building. Right now we are working through a study in the book of James with Francis Chan. In the study he unpacks the dense truth contained in the book of James in front of the iconic backdrop of San Francisco, the city where he lives and ministers. Through 12 sessions, Francis works through James verse-by-verse, challenging followers of Christ to move beyond a private, intellectual knowledge of God and His Word, to a vibrant faith that impacts every square inch of life.

## Camp Pecometh - May 21-23

## Goodness Of God

I love You Lord  
Oh Your mercy never fails me  
All my days  
I've been held in Your hands  
From the moment that I wake up  
Until I lay my head  
I will sing of the goodness of God

### Chorus

All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice  
You have led me through the fire  
In darkest night  
You are close like no other  
I've known You as a father  
I've known You as a friend  
I have lived in the goodness of God

### Chorus

Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
With my life laid down  
I'm surrendered now  
I give You everything  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me

### Chorus (2x)