

Gamma 11

Study 3

Ephesians 1:7-14

Section A (Exegetical Questions)

- 1. Paul gives us the long term ultimate perspective in God's plan in Ephesians 1:9-10. What is the plan and why does he call it a mystery?**
- 2. How is God' overall plan for life different from our plans and what difference will it make to us in the way we live when we understand His plan ?**
- 3. What is the difference in the concept of Fatherhood in the normal human family and God the Father as King. How does that give us comfort, purpose and confidence?**
- 4. What does Paul mean that the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance? Why does he use the word "sealed"**
- 5. If God is sovereign over everything how can we then be responsible for the consequences of our actions after all He had already predetermined everything. Why can't Judas complain that it was not him to betrayed Jesus but God was behind it all along. Use Genesis 50:20 and Isaiah 10: 1-12 to guide your discussion**

Section B

Reflection Questions

- 1. How can a person from a terrible background overcome bitterness toward God, knowing that He allowed it to happen?**
- 2. If even our sin can't thwart God's plan, then what's to keep a person from a careless attitude toward sin?**

3. **A father tells you that his child was molested and murdered and asks, “How can you expect me to believe in a good, all-powerful God?” What would you say?**

Section C

Case history

A dad was holding his three-year-old securely in his arms as he stood in the shallow end of the pool. As the dad walked slowly toward the deep end, he gently chanted, “Deeper and deeper and deeper.” As the water rose higher on the child, his face reflected more and more panic, and he clung all the more tightly to his father, whose feet easily touched the bottom. If the little boy had been able to analyze his situation, he would have realized that there was no reason to panic. The water’s depth in *any* part of the pool was over his head. Even in the shallowest part, if his dad had not held him up, he would have drowned. His safety anywhere in that pool depended on his dad.

- 1. What does this story tell us about trusting God in different situations?**
- 2. Is it logical to believe that God cannot look after us when the more difficult trials come upon us compared to the not so difficult trials**

The lesson

He should have been able to trust him in the deeper water just as easily as in the shallow
In various situations, we may feel that we’re in over our head. A terrible tragedy hits us out of no where. We lose our job, someone dies, someone wrongs us, and we feel as if we’re going to be swamped. But, the truth is, we’ve always been held up by the grace and love of our Heavenly Father. If He let us go, we’d drown even in the shallow end. If we’re in deeper waters, we’re still in His strong arms. God is never out of His depth, and so we can trust Him even when the waters seem deeper than we’ve ever been before. If you’re in the pits, remember, God is sovereign over all the details of your life. You can trust Him to work it all together for good! If you’ve never trusted Him before, why not begin now?