



**Series:** What Is So Great About Christianity

**Passage** Ephesians 1:1-12

**Title:** *Sola Gratia* - Grace Alone

**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard– 1/12/2020

### **Discussion Starter**

How has our study of this second pillar of the five Sola's "Grace Alone" enhanced your fundamental understanding of "What Is So Great About Christianity?" How has this encouraged you to share this with others?

### **Spiritual Greeting** (Ephesians 1:1-2)

- Read Ephesians 1:1-2. To whom is Paul addressing this letter, and what does he mean when he says he is an apostle by the will of God?
- What does it mean to be a saint and how can you become one?
- What is the definition of Grace?
- Why does this commonly used greeting found in different letters of the New Testament, which mention grace and peace together, always start with grace preceding peace?
- What is the difference between God's common grace and His saving grace? Read Matthew 5:45, Ephesians 2:8-10 and Romans 3:23-26. Discuss the additional insights gained by examining these verses.

### **Spiritual Blessings of God The Father** (Ephesians 1:3-6)

- In Ephesians 1:3, we see that the Father's grace gives us every spiritual blessing. What are some of the blessings that you wish for? How do spiritual blessings differ from non-spiritual blessings?
- How would you describe what it means to be in Christ?
- How can we reconcile that God chose us and sees us as holy and without blame before Him, when we know that we are not holy and blameless? What impact should this have on our lives if we really can comprehend this truth?
- Describe what Ephesians 1:5 says we are predestined to... and what is God's motivation for granting this unmerited grace? Read Revelation 3:20-23. What additional insight do you see revealed about God's grace in these verses?

### **Spiritual Blessing of Jesus** (Ephesians 1:7-12)

- Read Ephesians 1:7-8 and Romans 5:20-21. What does it mean that we are redeemed by Christ? How do these verses reveal God's understanding of our human frame?
- What is the problem for people who think they live a morally good life, but who are not redeemed by Christ? Why do they think they are OK? How can we reach them with the truth?
- What is the proper understanding of grace as it relates to sin in a Christian's life? What things will be evident in our lives if we have a wrong understanding of grace?
- Read Ephesians 1:9-12. Explain the mystery that is revealed in these verses? How does knowing that God had a plan for you in mind before the beginning of time impact your life today?