

## BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

1136 Baseline Road

Grand Island, New York

716-773-3748

www.bfcgi.org

### THE LORD'S DAY

January 10, 2016 8:30 & 10:15 AM

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude Carol Dammann

Piano Wendy Baldwin

Announcements Ron Mock

### MEDITATION

Ephesians 1:3-6 "Believers Predestined by the Father"

Doxology

Scripture Reading and Prayer

Psalm 32

Hymn 11 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Pastoral Prayer

Hymns 34, 349, 353

Message JONATHAN, A YOUNG PERSON IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION

I Samuel 19 & 20

Pastor Cal VanderMey

Hymn 337

"Nothing but the Blood of Jesus"

Benediction

### THE MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

### THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Youth Group Monday 6:30-8pm. Ages 8 and up

Prayer Meeting and Bible study Tuesday at 6:30pm - Ernie Beck

No Precept class on Tuesday with Wendy Baldwin at 6:30pm – begins January 19<sup>th</sup>

Men's Bible study Wednesday at 9:30am – Jim O'Rourke

Precept study Thursday at 9:15am. – Obadiah & Jonah - Margaret Was

Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell leading

Ladies Tea Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm

\*The offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary\*

Thanks for joining us at the BFC this morning!

\*\*Sunday messages are available online, CD or e-mail. See Bill Schultz\*\*

Ephesians 1:3-6

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

This section has been called a doxology, and in the Greek language verses 3-14 comprise one giant sentence. Paul lifts praise in highest exaltation to God in heaven as he begins to trace salvation from eternity past, through the present, and on into the future. God's eternal purpose in the past is discussed in verses 3-6, and this refers to our election. Paul first emphasizes our spiritual blessings in Christ that we have been given by the Father. Riches was something that Paul would have seen in Ephesus as it was the banking capital of that part of the world. Trade also brought wealth to this city of thousands of inhabitants. In these four verses, our spiritual blessings include being blessed in Christ (v. 3), chosen in Christ (v. 4), and adopted by Christ (v. 5).

Predestination is a doctrine that is found in Ephesians 1:4 where it states that we were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. Election means that salvation begins with God, not man. Our salvation is a work done by Christ, not man. Election is perhaps the most misunderstood doctrine in the Bible—misunderstood and hated by both people in the church and even in the world. School students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade still read "The Crucible" describing 17<sup>th</sup> century American culture and literature which was Arthur Miller's rather successful attempt to discredit the House Un-American Activities Committee that was investigating Communists in the entertainment industry in 1952-1953. To do that, Miller took an obscure incident from the 1690's that occurred in Salem, Massachusetts, with the witch trials. Too much time is still spent on this minor event that was limited in scope to one town and the frenzy that it caused there. The doctrine of election takes a hit as Miller discredits the entire Reformed faith and the "witch hunt" that we all know was unfounded and was condemned throughout New England. In fact, New England churches actually had wandered away from the faith (but found renewal in the Great Awakening fifty years later. Miller, who admitted he was a Communist, did much through his writings to hurt the America that he despised (although he lived in wealth—even marrying Marilyn Monroe).