

**FIRST BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
9171 Central Avenue, Suite 300, Capitol Heights, MD 20743  
Dr. Lehman D. Bates, Pastor  
May 14, 2013

**Studying**  
**“THE EPHESIANS EPISTLE”**  
**Chapter 1:1-14**

**THESIS:** One of the lessons to be learned from trials, temptations and tribulations is as they happen, so do many experiences, which can lead to the advantage of others, as well as the one who is going through the afflictive exercise.

**INTRODUCTION**

This letter is written to emphasize the church as the divine method for the achievement of the divine purpose. The church of God is the body of Christ. The church of God is the means by which the good news of the gospel is to be spread among men everywhere. God intended from the foundation of the world for those chosen by Him to be fitted and furnished with spiritual blessings according to the good pleasure of His Will. With these spiritual blessings He grants to the church wisdom and prudence, to the praise of the glory of His grace. The church is to be holy and without blame before Him in love. The church is made acceptable “in Christ” and “through Christ,” according to the riches of His grace. Through Christ the church has redemption fully by His shed blood, the forgiveness of sins.

It is the purpose of God that the spiritual blessings of God be upon all (Jew or Gentile), who are redeemed through the blood of Christ. It is His will that this be made known to all, who will hear His Voice. Particularly, the church, believers must realize they are “sealed” with the Holy Spirit of promise. Here “sealed” with the Holy Spirit of promise refers to being set apart by Him; or “separated, distinguished and marked as belonging to Him.”

## **BODY**

**Consider the following topics for in class discussion.**

### **I The Will of God**

- A. Purpose**
- B. Predestination**
- C. Progress**

### **II The Witness of God**

- A. In The Fullness of Time**
- B. Trust in Christ**
- C. Hear the Truth**

### **III The Wealth of God**

- A. Breath**
- B. Blessings**
- C. Benefits**

