



PART 3&4: *One* WITH THE  
WORLD AND CHURCH  
WEEK 8: GOD IS IN CONTROL

**WARM UP:** Has anyone ever been to the ruins of Ephesus? If not, who has travelled the closest to them?

**WARM UP:** As a group, share everything you know about the context of the letter to the Ephesians (e.g. date, author, reason).

1. Read v 3-8a. Set a timer for 5 minutes. Start it, and then talk about all the thoughts/questions/beliefs you have about predestination, *i.e.* *did God choose us or did we choose God or both? if God did choose us, did he choose us individually or corporately (i.e. as a group – the New Testament church)?* If you're flowing, give yourselves another 5 minutes, but that's it! (if anyone wants to talk about it more, get in touch with Andrew...)
2. Now, back on track, what are the "spiritual blessings" for those who belong to God? How often do you praise God for them?
3. Read v8b-10. What is "the mystery of his will"? And how is God going to achieve it through Christ? (see 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 for an additional perspective on this "unity")
4. Read v11-12. What role do those who "put our hope in Christ" (*i.e.* Christians) have in God's eternal plan? Why does Paul say that the first believers are "for the praise of his glory?"
5. Read v13-14. How do you know that you are part of this (*i.e.* included in Christ)? What comfort do you find in the reality that God is in control of history and your place in it (Him) is secure?

**PRAY:** Ask God for peace and freedom from existential worry.