

FLOWING FROM JESUS

Ephesians 1:3-14

Christ the divine _____

To live out of _____

Because we are not _____ of blessing

Not to _____, but to _____

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

I talked to someone today who told me they weren't really into the Christian faith at the moment. And I appreciated that they told me. And I appreciated that they were willing to hear from me that they were dearly loved whether they believe it or not. That's kind of our message, isn't it? A lot of times the language of predestination in Ephesians 1:3-14 has been used by Christians as a divine Surveyor's Office. What are the lot lines, and who is in, and who is out? But I don't think that this is about that, but about a God who pours himself out for us to hear, to experience, to celebrate. To share even, with people who need to have some love in life.

Read Ephesians 1.

Reflect:

The grace of our God in Jesus is *abundant*. So much so that one metaphor can't contain it. Paul talks about blessing, choosing, adoption, redemption, forgiveness, the riches of God's grace *lavished* on us and so on. What words stand out to you? How have you experienced it?

How are we sometimes more concerned about who is in or out, and not what is being offered?

Respond:

The grace of God *is good*.

Remember:

"...to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves." Ephesians 1:6