DIG**DEEPER**

September 20, 2015
Ephesians 1:11-12 ([Listen](#))
BJ McMichael

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus did a work for us we could never do for ourselves so that we might belong to God. He is the reason we have hope. His work on the cross and our response to it was predetermined by God from before time began so that when we come to Jesus for salvation it results in the praise of his glory alone.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it](#).)

What gives you hope?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- BJ mentioned the many times Paul uses the phrase "in Christ" as he writes this letter to the Ephesians. What does it mean to be in Christ?

- Read Psalm 139 and spend time thinking about how David's words affect your view of who God is. It may help to write down a few sentences to help you think through it.

- Think of a time when something happened to you that did not at first seem good. What does Ephesians 1:11 have to say about circumstances like the one you have in mind?

GO DEEPER

- The concept of God's providence and sovereignty can really frustrate minds that are constantly saturated with democratic principles where leaders submit to the authority of the people. Check out [these insightful words](#) on why our God is not like an elected official.

- As BJ mentioned, it is good to struggle with hard concepts like predestination. Questions like this push us deeper into the Scriptures and therefore into God himself. Here is a good [example of how to wrestle](#) with issues like when God decided to give us eternal life.

- How does the glory of God that Paul talks so much about in Ephesians 1 impact our everyday life? Paul David Tripp has some great words in [this audio clip](#) to help you think through that.

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

Think back to the conversation starter above. What is your hope currently set on? What is one way your daily life would be affected by hoping in Jesus? How would those closest to you be affected?