

# THE PLAN



## PRECEPT

### EPHESIANS 1:10-14

<sup>10</sup> And this is the plan: At the right time, He will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. <sup>11</sup> Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for He chose us in advance, and He makes everything work out according to His plan. <sup>12</sup> God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. <sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory.

## PROMISE

When it comes to getting into heaven, it's not what we've done, it's who we know. A lot of times, our human tendency is to rely on our own good deeds for justification, rather than the work of Jesus. In the world we live in, we need to perform in order to be accepted and promoted. With God, we need Jesus to be accepted and be promoted to heaven.

As we go back to Ephesians 1, Paul talks about how the Father loves us (Eph 1:3-6), the Son redeemed us (Eph 1:7-12), and the Spirit sealed us (Eph 1:13-14). This is God's wonderful plan for those who surrender and trust Him with their lives. The implication of this is that we should live according to His plan, for we are chosen by God, adopted into His family, and forgiven of all our sins. The following are some suggestions for us to live according to His plan:

**FEARFULLY.** Proverbs 8:13 tells us that to fear the Lord is to hate evil. We are to hate any evil things and detest the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. Let us abhor and rid any evil thoughts, evil words, evil deeds, greed, worldliness, and selfish ambitions/interest.

**OBEDIENTLY.** According to Luke 11:28, *"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it."* Do not be merely hearers of the Word, but also doers of the Word. We must practice our Christianity at all times, in thoughts, words, and actions. Wherever we are and go, we are called to live according to the Word of God, with His help and grace.

**CLEANLY.** 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 says, *"<sup>3</sup> God's will is that your lives are dedicated to Him. This means that you stay away from sexual immorality <sup>4</sup> and learn how to control your own body in a pure and respectable way. <sup>5</sup> Don't be controlled by your sexual urges like the pagans who don't know God."* We are to live free from any immorality, especially that marriage is sacred in the eyes of God. If we profess to be followers of Jesus, we are to honour the sanctity of marriage. The Holy Spirit has gifted us with self-control, so we must exercise this in our singleness or marriage.

**UNSELFISHLY.** Proverbs 18:1 reminds us that it's selfish and stupid to think only of ourselves. In other translations it says, *"Unfriendly people care only about themselves."* The sequence of living a selfless life is God first, others second, and self last. We are to consider others as more important than ourselves, not to merely look out for our own personal interests, but also for the interest of others.

**SATISFYINGLY.** 1 Timothy 6:6 reminds us, *"Godliness with contentment is great gain."* Simplicity is found in a relationship with Jesus. We are to learn to be content and grateful for what Jesus has done for us. We are also to keep away from things that would entangle us to live a life according to God's plan for us.

## PRACTICE

**1. Marked with a Seal.** What does the "seal" of the Holy Spirit mean? How can that knowledge change how you think about yourself and your life as a Christian?

**2. Living According to His Plan.** As you assess your life today, is there anything in your life that is not aligned to the will of God? What can you do to change it?

## PRAYER

### I. North Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo & Ico.

### II. East Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Domingo & Torres.

### III. South Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the South groups: Drapeza & Tablan.

### IV. West Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Solidum, Fabregas, and Gamboa.

### V. Young Couples

- Pray for these couples as they lead the Young Couples' groups: Imperial, Oliveros & Gumasing.

### VI. Young Once

- Pray for Alipao couple as they continue to lead this group.

### VII. Circles

- Pray for Manalo couple as they lead the youth and singles in knowing and loving God and others.