

December 14 Answers

- 1) In the first half of Ephesians, Paul shared what God is doing through the **Son** in the **Church** by the **Spirit**. Before the creation of the world, God sovereignly and graciously **chose** (elected) Jesus to be the one through whom the world would be saved (Eph 1:4). This teaches us that election is **Christocentric**, that is, election is realized and centered “**in** Christ.” God also **determined** (predestined) that all who repent of their sins and believe in Christ would be spiritually **united** with Him and **adopted** as sons (Eph 1:5). This teaches us that our election is both **corporate** and **conditional**. It is corporate in the sense that our status as elect comes only from being united by faith **with** Christ. We are elect because we are “in **Him**,” the elect One. It is conditional in the sense that our election is based on our **obedience** to God’s requirements of faith and repentance. This means that no one is predestined to be saved or lost. Rather, **all** men are called to believe in Christ (Matt 22:14) and those who “**continue** in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel” shall be saved (Col 1:22–23). Paul went on to say that everyone, whether **Jew** or **Gentile**, must place their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. When they do, they are **raised** from death to spiritual life and are made “**alive** together with Christ” (Eph 2:5). This teaches us that Christ’s body, the **church**, is made up of all those who are “in Christ.” This wonderful truth is the **mystery** of Christ, that “the Gentiles are fellow heirs, **members** of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (Eph 3:6).