TALKINGPOINTS
WALKINGPOINTS

A publication of **DISCIPLE U**, the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11

Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Triangle Community Church aims to be a "transforming church". We exist to be used by God as He transforms ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. TCC believes not only that life-change is possible—but that it is to be expected. Growth is God's will for his people.   But transformation does not happen by accident. It requires intentional, intelligent action. 1 Timothy 4:7 instructs you to "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." Since "Talking Points, Walking Points" is intended both for individual reflection and for group discussion, questions vary in degree of vulnerability required. Generally it is best to begin group discussions with questions which involve less personal disclosure—but don't linger there. Be sure to "dive deep" too! The questions which require the greatest openness and honesty, as well as those in the section entitled "Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time", are perfect for private reflection.

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

• What from Sunday's message interested you?   ...made sense to you?   ...confused you?   ...intrigued you?   ...upset you?   ...encouraged you?   ...and **why?**

• Read Ephesians 1:3-14.   Who are the **two** entities in v. 3 which are "blessed"? _____ & _____

   The word "blessed", when applied to us saints, is a verb. We have been blessed by God.
   In what sense, in what ways, are we saints blessed? List everything you see in these verses.

   The word "blessed", when applied to God, is an adjective (Greek: *eulogize*). God is to be blessed by us.
   In what sense, in what ways, is God the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ blessed?

• Pastor Doug taught on the deep, difficult to understand doctrine of "election".
   Be honest now—is your **emotional reaction** to the doctrine of election to **bless** God? Why or why not?

   What response does Paul say we **should** have—that believers **will** have—to our election (1:6, 12, 14)?

   Think about the most honorable position to which you've been chosen (class president, team captain, etc.).
   Who selected you?   On what basis was your selection made?

   How well did you perform your duties in that role for which you were selected?

   How does that election/selection compare and contrast with God's election of you to salvation?

Ephesians 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

I. **God blessed us**

    A.   with rich spiritual blessings

    B.   for those who are "in Christ"

    C.   "in the heavenly places"—the spiritual dimension

    D.   spiritually we are seated with Christ (Ephesians 2:6)

II. **God chose us**

    A.   in Christ

    B.   for salvation

    C.   before the foundation of the world

    D.   we are holy and righteous in Christ

    E.   according to his foreknowledge

III. **We should invite everyone to respond to what Christ did on the cross.**

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" *(see next page)* **is a simple way to study any passage.**
Let's use it to continue geting an overview of the whole book of Ephesians...
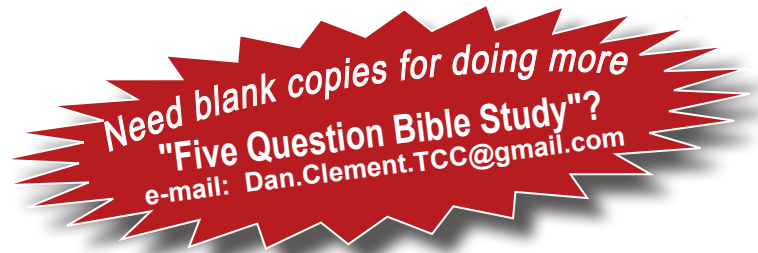
Monday—Read Ephesians 1

Tuesday— Read Ephesians 2

Wednesday— Read Ephesians 3

Thursday— Read Ephesians 4

Friday— Read Ephesians 5

Saturday— Read Ephesians 6

Five Question Bible Study

Bible Text: _____   Date: _____

What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]

What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would ***this text*** answer it?

What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?

What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.

With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]