

Loved, Chosen and Accepted

Ephesians 1:3-6

Introduction

I The Believer's Spiritual Blessings

- A. The source of our blessings
 - 1. They originate from the Father - Jn 3:16; Jam 1:17
 - 2. They emanate from the riches of:
 - a. God's grace - Eph 1:7; 2:7a
 - b. God's kindness - Eph 2:7b
- B. The scope of our blessings
 - 1. They include "every" spiritual blessing - Rom 8:32
- C. The sphere of our blessings
 - 1. They are "in heavenly realms" - 1:3,20;2:6;3:10;6:12
 - 2. They are "in Christ" - 2 Cor 5:17; Jn 15:4-5

II The Blessings Of The Father

- A. Chosen by God - Deut 7:6; 1 Pet 1:1-2; 2:9
 - Chosen** = "To pick or choose out for one's self"
 - 1. The time of His choice
 - a. "Before the creation of the world"
 - II Th 2:13-14; Matt 25:34
 - 2. The objects of His choice
 - 3. The purpose of His choice - Eph 5:27
 - a. That we would be holy - 1Thes 4:7;1 Pet 1:15-16
 - Holy** = "Set apart for a special purpose"
 - b. That we would be without blame
 - Without blame** = "Free from blemish"
 - Col 1:22; 2 Pet 3:13-14; 1 Cor 1:8
- B. Predestined by God
 - Predestined** = "To predetermine, decide beforehand"
 - 1. The subjects of God's predestination - Rom 8:29-30; Eph 1:11-12
 - 2. The purpose of God's predestination
 - a. Our adoption - Gal 4:4-5; Jn 1:12-13; Rom 8:23

- 3. The motivation of God's predestination
 - a. His pleasure and will - Phil 2:13; Eph 1:11-12
- C. Accepted by God - Rom 3:22-24; 8:1
 - Accepted** = "To be highly favored" - Lk 1:28
 - 1. The basis of our acceptance
 - a. In the One He loves

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. What are the different ways the world pursues love and acceptance? What about you - how did you pursue love and acceptance before you came to know Christ? How about now?
2. Paul states that you were chosen before the creation of the world. If this is true, what role did your "being good enough" for God have in your salvation? Read Romans 1:17 and discuss.
3. The purposes of God's choosing us is that we might be holy and blameless. Does your life reflect God's purposes? Why or why not? Is there something you need to give up or begin doing to cooperate with His purposes?
4. Ephesians repeatedly uses the phrase, "according to His pleasure and will." It is the explanation for all the spiritual blessings that He has given us. What impact does it have on you to know that God gets pleasure out of blessing you?
5. Paul tells us that we are accepted by God in Christ. What does it mean to be "in Christ"? [Hint: Read John 15:4-8] How can you cooperate with God in remaining in Christ?
6. What impact does it have on you to know that the God of all the universe has specially and specifically chosen and accepted you as His own son/daughter? Take a moment now to thank and praise Him for the many spiritual blessings He has given you in Christ.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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