

Series "Our Riches In Christ"
"The Father's Blessings"
Ephesians 1:3-6
Study-2

This evening we are going to look at **The Doctrine of "Election"** (God's choosing of us.)

Ephesians 1:3-14 introduces us to the Trinity and their part in the redemptive plan (God's plan to save us). In each one of these, it is all done with the view of "the glory of God."

Verses 3-6 – "Blessings of the Father." He called us, adopted us, and accepted us. **Ephesians 1:6 – "to the praise of the glory of His grace,"**

Verses 7-12 – "Blessings of Jesus Christ." He redeemed us, set free from the power of sin. **Ephesians 1:12 – "would be to the praise of His glory."**

Verses 13-14 – "Blessings of the Spirit." Sealed us; our inheritance for the future. **Ephesians 1:14 – "to the praise of His glory."**

The Thought Of The Passage: "All Spiritual Blessings Are Due To The Father's Choosing, Adopting And Accepting Us."

1. Verses 3-4 – Father Chose Us

2. Verse 5 – Father Adopted Us

3. Verse 6 – Father Accepted Us

1. Verses 3-4 – Father Chose Us:

Ephesians 1:3 – "Blessed be the God and Father" – Verses 3-6 describe the blessings of God the Father.

"of our Lord Jesus Christ," – The trinity is mentioned in this verse. Father, Jesus, "spiritual blessing;" literally, "Blessings of the Spirit."

"who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing," – "spiritual as opposed to natural, material or temporal, every kind of"

"in the heavenly places in Christ," – These blessings can only be experienced through a relationship with Jesus Christ!

Ephesians 1:4 – "just as He (God The Father) chose us" – This is known as "Election." It is the choosing of people by God the Father. This book is written to Christians, so the context is to saints, not the un-saved.

“Chose” – is in the Greek aorist tense and the middle voice meaning, God’s total independent choice. Verb is reflexive: “God not only chose by Himself but chose for Himself.”

There are 5 usages of the term “chose or election” in Scripture:

- 1. Angels – 1 Timothy 5:21**
- 2. Service – 2 Samuel 6:21**
- 3. Nation Israel – Deuteronomy 7:6-8**
- 4. Jesus, The Chosen One – Luke 9:35**
- 5. Personal Salvation – John 15:16; 1 Thessalonians 1:4**

2 basic groups that differ on this doctrine:

- 1. Calvinism 1509-1564:** founded by John Calvin, a reformer. Is referred to as “Calvinism,” or “Reformed Theology.” Calvin taught many things, some of them very Biblical.

The 5 points are also known by the acrostic word **“Tulip,”** taking the first letter of the 5 points: **T** – Total Depravity, **U** – Unconditional election, **L** – Limited atonement, **I** – Irresistible grace, **P** – Perseverance of the saints:

- 1. Total Depravity** – Man is dead in trespasses and sin and is unable to save himself. So dead he can’t respond to God. So God regenerates him before he can come and respond to Christ. Regeneration is prior to faith!
- 2. Unconditional Election** – That God chose certain persons to be saved and some not, we have no choice.

“Double Election” – God elects (Chooses) some for heaven, some for hell.
- 3. Limited Atonement** – Jesus did not die for everyone’s sins but only those that are God’s elect, the chosen ones.
- 4. Irresistible Grace** – God will draw to Himself His chosen ones, regardless of their own rebellion and unwillingness.
- 5. Perseverance Of The Saints** – Eternal security; (Once save always saved) a Christian cannot lose his salvation.

The Calvinistic view leaves out human responsibility and free will and only focusing on the sovereignty of God.

Calvinism ignores or at times even opposes evangelism.

Calvinism can lead to divisions, strife and arguments.

Calvinists speak of love and grace frequently but display very little. They consider being right is more important than doing right.

2. **Arminian 1560-1609**: Founded by Jacobus (James) Arminius, Dutch Theologian. Taught that man is not guilty for Adam's sin, only guilty when he chooses to sin. Charismatic Churches hold to this.

1. **Election** – God has foreknowledge, so He knows who those are that would receive Him, so He chose them, but does not choose anyone for hell.
2. **Unlimited Atonement** – Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the whole world, thus all men are savable.
3. **Natural Inability** – Man cannot save himself. Some do not believe that man is totally depraved and condemned as a result of Adam's sin.
4. **Prevenient Grace** – There is predatory work of the Holy Spirit that enables the believer to respond to the Gospel, to cooperate with God in the working out of the person's salvation. (Spirit draws us to God)
5. **Conditional Perseverance** – Man can choose to reject God and therefore lose his salvation. You must abide in Christ to be saved, you can choose to walk away.

This can produce a Christian that is always unsure as to whether they are saved or not; Going again and again to the altar to secure salvation.

Some convince themselves that they are in a state of sinless perfection; Ultra-spiritual, reaching some plane.

Living by feelings; Emotions.

"in Him before the foundation of the world," – God, being all knowing, has known from the beginning of time who will exercise their free will to accept Him and who will reject Him. Those that receive Him are the elect, those who reject are the non-elect.

D.L Moody said, "The 'whosoever wills' are the elect, and the 'whosoever won't' are the non-elect."

Ephesians 2:4-6

Limited atonement is not taught in the Bible. Romans 5:6 – “Christ died for the ungodly.”

John 1:29; Acts 2:21; 2 Corinthians 5:15; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 3:18;
1 John 2:2

Both Calvinism and Arminianism contain elements of truth but neither can be substituted for reading and believing the Word of God.

A problem arises when it seems that what God has revealed contradicts something else that God has revealed. How can man be absolutely free and God absolutely sovereign? How can salvation be all God's work but yet require the cooperation of man?

There are Two sides of a coin, Election is God's side, Freewill is our side of the coin.

1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9

This speaks about our positional standing with God. “Blameless” – is a word that describes an unblemished sacrifice, something that is pure to be offered to the Lord. That’s how God the Father sees you – spotless through the work of Jesus Christ.

“Love” – The Father loves us; chosen.

2. Verse 5 – Father Adopted Us:

Ephesians 1:5 – “He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself,” – “predestined” – “to decree beforehand, pre-design, to ordain beforehand.” In Romans 8, and Ephesians 1, is always applied to Christians.

“Adoption” was practiced by the Greeks and Romans. Adoption – Was a legal term that gave the child that was chosen equal rights as a blood son; Full standing so that he would be given an inheritance.

In the Old Testament, God is referred to as “Father” 14X. That is out of 39 books of the Old Testament. The term “Father” was never used in individuals but to Israel as a Nation.

Jesus called God His “Father” over 60X. That’s all he called Him, except on the cross, when he quoted Psalm 22.

Romans 8:15-17

“through Jesus Christ to Himself,” – God is righteous, a just God, a holy God, He is the payment for sin, had to be dealt with.

“kind intention of His will,” – or good pleasure of His will.

3. Verse 6 – Father Accepted Us:

Ephesians 1:6 – “to the praise of the glory of His grace,” – The Father’s entire plan of salvation is to give glory to God.

“which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.” – KJV: “He hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

Application:

1. Humble Worship – Humble Because God The Father Initiated My Salvation. Worship Because God The Father Is Worthy To Be Praised, He Loves Us So Much And He Is So Good.
2. Give Of Ourselves To A Life Of Humble Holy Service. We Should Want Others To Know God’s Grace Through Faith In Salvation.