

Series: The Generosity Factor  
Speaker: Dr. Bill Patterson



## Today's Scripture

Ephesians 1:1-12 NIV

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—<sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

<sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.



## Soul Food

### GOING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

You are encouraged to read verses before and after the selected passages.

**Sunday:** Ephesians 1:1-12 God's gift to you.

**Monday:** Ephesians 1:13-22 What do you learn of Christ?

**Tuesday:** 1 John 3:1-11 Impact of lavish love.

**Wed:** Romans 8:28-31 God knew from the start...

**Thursday:** 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 He has chosen...

**Friday:** 2 Timothy 1:7-10 God's grace changes behavior.

**Saturday:** 1 Peter 2:9-17 A chosen people.

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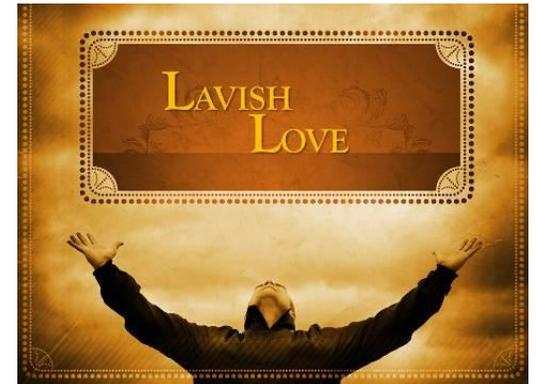
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October 25, 2020

Sermon Notes



Big Idea: God's love washes over every aspect of your life.

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*  
James 1:22 (NIV)

## Your Life in Light of the Word

Today's passage unfolds like shingles on a roof or steps on a stairway. Deep truths are contained in a few words. As a follower of Jesus, it is essential to think biblically or theologically about God, life and you. You are encouraged to read books like *Bible Doctrine* by Wayne Grudem. If you learn best by hearing, ask Pastor Bill for Grudem's MP3s on election.

Biblically, these are some key areas of the Christian life.

### *The Order of Salvation*

1. Election (God's choice of people to be saved)
2. The gospel call (proclaiming the message of the gospel)
3. Regeneration (being born again)
4. Conversion (faith and repentance)
5. Justification (right legal standing)
6. Adoption (membership in God's family)
7. Sanctification (right conduct of life)
8. Perseverance (remaining a follower of Christ)
9. Death (going to be with the Lord)
10. Glorification (receiving a resurrection body)

We should note here that items 2-6 and part of 7 are all involved in "becoming a Christian." Number 7 and 8 work themselves out in this life, number 9 occurs at the end of this life, and number 10 occurs when Christ returns.

Do you understand the ideas contained here?  
How does belief in the Heavenly Father impact your daily life?

How do you plan for spiritual growth in your life?

If you are a Christ follower God has chosen you. He did not have to. Read today's Bible passage and record what happens to a person when they commit their life to Jesus. Look at the nouns.

Read Ephesians 1:8. God did not have to do anything we see in today's passage, but He did. In fact, He over does it. He does it to excess. He is beyond generous. He is extravagant. Take a few minutes to thank God for all He lavishes upon us!

What is God's intended and expected result concerning our behavior in response to this lavish love? See verse 12.

In dependence on the Holy Spirit, what are two items you need to change in your behavior or attitude to properly respond to His lavish love?

- 1)
- 2)

### *Praying God's Word ~ Ephesians 1:1-12 NIV*

- Praise God for spiritual blessings in Christ.
- Thank God He chose you - if you are a Christ follower.
- Praise God He has adopted you.
- Thank God for the redemption that can be yours in Jesus.
- Praise God for His lavish love.



## God is Love

Our Daily Bread

A farmer placed a weathervane inscribed with the words "God is love" on top of his barn. One day a traveler stopped by the farm and watched the weathervane moving with the breeze. Then, with a smirk on his face, he asked, "Do you mean to say that your God is as changeable as the wind?"

The farmer shook his head and replied, "No. What I mean to say is that no matter which way the wind blows, God is love!"

The statement "God is love" implies much more than that God demonstrates His love regardless of the circumstances. It means that love is the essence of God's character. We will never be able to plumb the depths of His love—not even in eternity. But the apostle John pointed out that we can begin to understand it as we view the cross (1 Jn. 4:9-10). As we see Christ dying there for us, we catch a glimpse of the beauty of the loving heart of God.

John went on to point out that if God is love, His children should resemble Him (vv. 11-21). Consequently, if there is no warm glow in our hearts for our brother, if we do not thrill to the lovely name of Jesus, we may well question the reality of our conversion experience.

Do we know and reflect the love of God?

Unfailing is God's matchless love,  
So kind, so pure, so true;  
And those who draw upon that love  
Show love in all they do. —DJD

**A person who knows God's love shows God's love.**