

Every Spiritual Blessing Part 1 Ephesians 1:3-6

Introduction: God's choosing and predestinating have long been issues of contention and confusion when they are meant to be reasons for encouragement and praise.

I. The blessing of being chosen

- A. The meaning- ἐκλέγομαι (eklogomai)
- B. The Agent- "He" (Father)
- C. The object- "us in Christ"
- D. The timing- "before the foundation of the world"
- E. The purpose- "to be holy and blameless before Him"

II. The blessing of being predestined

- A. The meaning- προορίζω (prohorizo)
- B. The Agent- "He" (Father)
- C. The object- "us"
- D. The manner- "in love"
- E. The destination- "adoption as sons"
- F. The means- "through Jesus Christ"
- G. The result- "to Himself"
- H. The motivation- "according to the good pleasure of His will"
- I. The purpose- "To the praise of the glory of His grace"

Conclusion: May we not allow our mental struggle with these truths to rob us of their blessing or keep us from praising God for His glorious grace demonstrated in them as He has "bestowed this grace upon us in the Beloved (Christ)".

Questions for discussion/application

- What is the difference between election and predestination?
- Is “holy and blameless” in verse 4 practical or positional? How does the text back up your answer? How does where one places the words “in love” relate to how one answers this question?
- What is the significance of the prepositional phrase “according to the good pleasure of His will” in relation to our predestination?
- What does it mean to be adopted as sons? (Hint: see Galatians 4:1ff)
- What are some of the errors associated with the various views of these blessings? How do we avoid these errors?