

Ephesians: Unsearchable riches of Christ

Study 3: Chosen by God

READ Ephesians 1:3-6 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

Paul has crafted a heartfelt expression of praise to God for his extraordinary plan of salvation, which he sees as a manifestation of God's glory and grace. God imparts abundant blessings through the Spirit to all who are connected to Jesus Christ in a dynamic, personal relationship. Before He created the world, God lovingly chose a people for himself and devised a way of freeing them from their enslavement to sin. One day God will bring all of His rebellious creation under the reign of Jesus Christ. In this study we look at the first blessing of being chosen by God.

Main lesson: God lovingly chose believers in Christ to be holy, family, and vessels of praise

Questions:

1. What does Paul mean by saying that "God chose us in Christ"? Consider who He chose and in whom He chose them? See 1 Cor 1:26-31; John 6:37; 17:6.
2. What does it mean that God chose believers "before the foundation of the world"? See Rom 9:11; 2 Tim 1:9.
3. Why is the doctrine of election essential if we want to glorify God? How does the denial of it detract from God's glory?
4. How would you respond to someone who says that God chose believers because of foreseen faith in believers? Consider the meaning of "foreknew" in Rom 8:29.

5. How would you respond to someone who says that if God only chose to save some then He doesn't love everyone? Does God love everyone equally?
6. If God chooses certain people for salvation, does it not also mean that God chooses other people to damnation? How would you respond to this objection?
7. Theologian, Bruce Milne stated, "Election must be held in relation to, or in tension with, the Bible's clear insistence of human responsibility in the face of God's summons in the gospel (Matt 23:37; Heb 12:25). To stress only one of these strands of Scripture and effectively ignore the other is to put asunder what God has joined together." Do you agree with this statement? Explain.
8. From v. 4, what is one of the purposes for God having chosen believers, and how might this be a test to know if a person is saved?
9. Why should we reflect deeply on the doctrine of adoption (v. 5)? What practical benefit might a deep understanding of this doctrine have?
10. How has this study encouraged you and caused you to praise God's "glorious grace" (v. 6).

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: God for His glorious grace, eternal wisdom, and ordained plan

Thank: the Lord for choosing you before the foundation of the world to be His child

Pray: that you would grow in your knowledge and appreciation of what He has done