

Series: Ephesians

Title: Predestinated Unto the Adoption

Text: Ephesians 1: 5-6

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Ephesians 1: 3: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings [before the foundation of the world] in Christ: 4: According as he hath chosen us in [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him **in love: 5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**

The Spirit of God's Son had filled Paul with the love which God the Father had toward him—God the Father BEloved Paul, in Christ the BEloved, BEfore the foundation of the world—even as he loved his own Son.

Paul beheld how God commended his love toward Paul in that while he was yet a sinner, God sent his Son who paid in blood to purchase Paul from sin and death to an eternal inheritance.

Paul beheld the Father's love in how God predestinated him unto the adoption, appointing the time, when he gave Paul the spirit of adoption—revealing to Paul that God loved him from everlasting, therefore in lovingkindness drew Paul unto himself by Jesus Christ.

Paul beheld the Father's love in that, God the Father had made Paul his heir, joint-heirs with Christ—giving him the earnest of the Spirit until Christ returns to complete his adoption, redeeming his body to be with the Lord in glory forever.

So Paul did what men do who have experienced the love of God in their hearts. He believed Christ and served the Father in love. He did so preaching this great truth of how God loves.

And Paul served in faith, praying the Father to make others “comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that they might be filled with all the fulness of God.” (Eph 3: 18-19)

It would seem that one who claims to be a child of God would be pleased with whatever is “his good pleasure.” But most despise this truth. I realize the carnal mind is enmity against God. “The natural man cannot receive the things of God; neither can he know them, for they are spiritually discerned.” But another great problem sinners have is their preachers.

Preachers reveal much about their own hearts by thinking they are exercising greater love, by not preaching the truth. Paul had experienced the love of the Father. The effectual result was Paul preached the truth.

Now, anyone can learn doctrine in the oldness of the letter. I want you to know God in newness of spirit. I am not trying to convince anyone to believe in the doctrine of election, or predestination, or eternal adoption. My desire is for you know the love of God which is in Christ Jesus then you will know my doctrine is of God and will delight in it.

Do you want God to receive all glory? Verse 6 says God did this, “**To the praise of the glory of his grace.**” If you want God to receive the glory then, together, let's hear God declare how he makes his children his own and draws each one to himself, so that all praise and glory in him alone.

**Title:** Predestinated Unto the Adoption

**Proposition:** God the Father adopted his children before time, makes each child to experience their adoption in time and shall bring each one to himself in the end.

**I. ADOPTION—v5: [in love,] Having predestinated us unto the ADOPTION of children by Jesus Christ to himself.**

Normally, my rule is to look at the words in the order they come in the verse. But in this case, the adoption of children comes first, so let's look at adoption first.

Adoption may be looked at in three ways. 1) First, adoption is the eternal act of God the Father whereby he made a multitude his eternal children in Christ before the foundation of the world. 2) Secondly, when we experience adoption in time when the Spirit of his Son enters our hearts and we are given the spirit of adoption. 3) Thirdly, adoption is spoken of as when we are delivered into the glorious liberty of the sons of God and then our bodies are redeemed.

### **Eternal Adoption**

First, God's children became his children in eternal adoption before the world was made. Election and adoption are distinct but so closely connected—Christ said, “thine they were and thou gavest them me.”

Verse 4 ends with the words “in love.” Love was the moving cause in God the Father. His love is in Christ.

- In love, God the Father adopted us to himself in Christ.
- In love, God the Father blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Christ.
- In love, all these spiritual blessings were according as God the Father chose us in Christ.

His love was based on nothing in those he loved but **v5: “according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved”, Christ Jesus.**

### **Illustration of Eternal Adoption**

Let's look at adoption in eternity by way of illustration: this will not be exact, but it will help. Abraham chose Rebekah to be the bride of his son, Isaac. Likewise, God the Father chose his elect to be the bride of his Son—each elect child makes up the church, the bride of his Son, Christ.

Abraham gave Rebekah a dowry, great riches and ornaments to adorn her when he gave her to his son. Likewise, God the Father adorned us blessing us with all spiritual blessings and gave us to his Son: “thine they were, thou gavest them me.”

When Abraham gave Rebekah to his son, Abraham loved her with the same fatherly love as he loved Isaac, because she was now one with Isaac—It was more so when God gave his children to his Son. By nature, Christ is the eternal Son of the Father. So when the Father gave his children to Christ his Son, we became the sons of God eternally one with the Father in his Son.

God the Father loves each of his adopted children with the same love as he loves his Son, Christ Jesus—with “an everlasting love.” (Jer 31: 13) Christ declared in John 17: 23:...thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

So we see our first point: God the Father adopted his children to himself from everlasting, making us his everlasting sons and daughters, according as he chose us in his Son. But there are two other phases of adoption. Next, is our experience of our adoption in time then the final end when God brings us to himself in glory. This is where predestination comes in.

## **II. PREDESTINATION—v5: Having PREDESTINATED us UNTO the adoption of children BY JESUS CHRIST to himself...**

Predestination is God the Father “pre” appointing the time when by Jesus Christ each elect child shall experience our adoption and then at last be brought to God in glory. God sovereignly determined all things that come to pass in time for the salvation of his elect, entrusting all to his Son.

### **Predestinated to the Appointed Time**

Having made us his sons by adoption before the foundation of the world, it was the good pleasure of God the Father, the counsel of his own will, to predestinate each child to an appointed time when Jesus Christ our Head shall: cross their path with this good news, send the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit of adoption, into the hearts of each one, thus bring each child to praise God in all his glory who loved us and entrusted this work into the hands of our Sovereign Savior—that the promise might be sure!

Romans 8: 28: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, [even before we love God] to them who are the called according to his purpose. [called from eternity in his purpose] 29: For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30: Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

**Application:** Most of what is happening in this world right now would throw me into utter despair but for the certainty that God works “all things together” for the good of his people. This work is certain, “according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.” Oh, believer, praise God the Father in all his glory for trusting this work into the hands of Christ Jesus! What if tonight it is the appointed time for a lost child! This is my hope and confidence in preaching the gospel. I know that Christ Jesus our sovereign Head shall bring to pass the counsel of God our Father’s own will.

**Illustration:** We adopt not knowing!

### **Our First Birth**

Had God the Father not predestinated his children to be called at the time he set, we would never know what God did from everlasting because we were born the first time as orphans, polluted in our own blood.

Ezekiel 16: 4: And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. 5: None eye pitied thee, [love you] to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born....8: Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.

### **Illustration of Adopted Child in Time**

We find our next illustration in Galatians 4. Paul gives the illustration of a child who is heir to a king.

Galatians 4: 1: Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2: But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

The elect child is heir of God our Father. Yet, as long as he is the child of his first father he is dead in sins. He differs nothing from every other servant of sin, though he be the son and heir of God. He is under the bondage of others, till the predestinated time of love which the Father appointed—

Galatians 4: 3: Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

Paul describes those elements up the page in Galatians 3: 23:...before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up [until] the Faith [Christ] which should afterwards be revealed. 24: Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster [a harsh, strict tutor—declaring us guilty, guilty, guilty—UNTIL] Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25: But after that Faith [Christ] is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Galatians 4: 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5: To redeem them that were under the law, 5: That we might receive the adoption of sons 6: And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

“Forasmuch as the children”—God’s adopted children—“were flesh and blood”, God the Son took part of the same. Were it not for the eternal adoption of God the Father, Christ would not have been the near Kinsmen. But by eternal adoption Christ was. And for his love wherewith he loved us, Christ was willing and able to redeem the children of God by his blood. So Christ paid the purchase price—his blood—paying all the debt we owed to the law so that we are free from the law and become Christ’s lawful possession. Now, we can receive the right and privileges that come with being sons of God. And because his children were sons from eternity, God sent forth the Spirit of his Son into their hearts.

This is when the Spirit sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts. Christ said, “Now they have known...all things...For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me.” (Jn 17: 7-8) The law written our hearts in the everlasting covenant of grace are these words: “I have loved thee with an everlasting love therefore in loving kindness have I drawn thee.” Then we become one, even as God the Father and God the Son are one. Christ said, “I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one.” Then we know that God the Father has loved us, even as he has loved Christ. (Jn 17: 23.) We cry, Abba, Father!

Galatians 4: 7: Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son;

We cease our old, dead letter charade; cease being the servants of corruption; cease serving in the oldness of the letter, and now as sons constrained by the love of Christ, we serve our Father in faith and love---in newness of spirit. Romans 8: 14: For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15: For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Galatians 4: 7:...and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. W

With sonship comes the promise of eternal inheritance, the completion of our adoption—back to Ephesians.

Ephesians 1: 11: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12 That we should be to the

praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13: In whom ye also [trusted,] after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14: which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory

**Application:** What assurance we have! Christ bought his brethren to an inheritance “reserved in heaven” therefore, God will not stand by and watch one perish in unbelief or allow one already called to fall away. Each child eternally adopted before time, shall experience the adoption in their hearts **in time** and shall be given the earnest of our inheritance because God the Father predestinated it, it was his good pleasure, his will, and God works all things after the counsel of his own will. No one can stop our sovereign God and Savior!

### **Completion of Adoption**

Our text says God predestinated us “Unto Himself.” So there is one more time which we are predestinated unto which will finish our adoption, which is our being delivered into the glorious liberty of the sons of God and then to have our bodies redeemed as well.

Romans 8: 16: The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. 18: For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19: For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, 21: Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22: For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23: And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

**Application:** What a day that will be! Delivered from the bondage of corruption into glory—glorious liberty! Then the redemption of our body—fashioned like unto his glorious body. We have the earnest of the Spirit! We have the assurance that it shall come to pass because God our Father predestinated us unto it. So we saw we are eternally God’s children in Christ by God the Father adopting us before the foundation of the world.

So we saw God the Father predestinated us unto the time when each child shall experience their adoption by Jesus Christ revealing himself through the Holy Spirit in our hearts. We saw the final completion of our adoption will be glorious liberty of the sons of God. One last thing...

### **III. ALL OF THIS IS—V6 To the PRAISE of the GLORY of HIS GRACE, wherein HE hath made us ACCEPTED in the beloved.**

The apostle Paul’s purpose in this epistle was that we might know the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3: 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18: May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19: And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Believer, we have something, not even the elect angels have. They are chosen, but they are not sons.

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1 John 3:1.)

It is HIS perfect love for us that cast out fear in our hearts.

1 John 4: 15: Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. 16: And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. 17: Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world....19: We love him, because he first loved us.

God's love is in Christ. So seek to know more of Christ. For the more we comprehend the height and depth of the Father's love for his Son, the more we behold the height and depth of the Father's love for us. The more we are assured

Romans 8:39: Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God's true children love to hear his everlasting love declared to us, for by his eternal love and unchanging grace, he hath made us accepted in the Beloved.

Cling to Christ in faith and look nowhere else and serve him in love. We are debtors, not to the flesh, but to him who loved us and gave himself for us. So if you believe him, serve him like you love him!

Amen!