

Contra Mundum
Every Spiritual Blessing
Ephesians 1:3-6
January 18, 2015

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places... **-Ephesians 1:3**

I. BLESSED - IN CHRIST, BY THE SPIRIT, FOR HEAVEN

- Every promise (blessing) we receive from God is “in Christ” (2 Cor. 1:20; Gal. 3:14; Eph. 3:6).
- The blessings of God come to us primarily through the work of his Spirit (vs. 3; John 14:16-17, 25-26; Rom. 8:1; 1 Pet. 4:14).
- Our hope and blessing lies in heaven, where we reside with Christ. Here we struggle, but there we are safe and secure (Matt. 6:19-20; Eph. 2:5-6).

II. A PURPOSEFUL CHOOSING

- *Chosen in Christ
- *Chosen before creation
- *Chosen for holiness
- *Chosen to live before the throne of God
- *Chosen for adoption
- *Chosen by his will and purpose
- We are chosen to be holy and blameless, not to be proud and lazy (John 15:16; 2 Thess. 2:13-15).
- God’s purpose in election is to make slaves into sons (vs. 5; Rom 8:14-17).

III. ALL IN LOVE, ALL TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY

- Election and predestination - full of controversy and yet leading to the glory of God and the wonders of his grace (vs. 6; John 9:1-3; 11:4; Rom. 9:17).

KNOW: Regardless of our theological stances on predestination, the Scriptures are clear that we have been in the mind of God since the very beginning of time. He chose us, then adopted us in love—to his praise and glory. We can only receive the blessing in awe and gratitude.

DO: Praise God for his electing love.

Suggested Reading:

Hand in Hand, by Randy Alcorn

Doctrines that Divide, by Erwin Lutzer

18 Words, by J.I. Packer

**Questions/Discovery Points for
Life Groups/Families**

Please read Ephesians 1:3-6

1. Paul tells us that we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing. What does that mean, and if it is true, why do we feel so often that we are not under the blessing of God?
2. We have been chosen by God. How do we rejoice in that together, even if we have differing opinions about how/when God did the choosing? Is God’s choosing of us truly “good news”? Why?
3. We talked about God choosing us for a purpose. There is nothing random in God. His choosing is “in love” and for a purpose. Why do we tend to balk at the notion of choosing, given the parameters in which the choosing takes place?
4. Read Romans 8:14-17. In conjunction with our passage for this week, what does it mean to be a “son” of God? What are the benefits? Are there correlations between adoption as a theological concept, and adoption as it occurs in our culture?
5. What about “election” (again, regardless of your particular view, if you have one, about how that takes place) is so praiseworthy? Why does Paul insist that God is glorified by choosing for himself a family?
6. In what ways has God been glorified in your own salvation experience?