

God's Blessing, Your Destiny – Ephesians 1:3-6

1) God's blessing is about God

Three-fold use of the word "bless" – eulogeo – signals importance!

Who is blessed here – us or God?

What was the point of Jesus' death? To bless us or to bless God? Romans 3:25-26

This passage is more about God being praised than it is about our being blessed!

What kind of blessing, and how much of a blessing, do we receive? Infinite!

Blessed "in the heavenly places." The blessings are exhaustive and secure.

Application: Don't live like life is all about you. That's not the chief end of man.

Getting what you want leads to unhappiness and frustration because it's not our chief end!

How would you live if you believed that you are blessed with every spiritual blessing, and knew that those blessings are secure?

2) God's choice is about God

Is being chosen a negative idea or a positive one?

Choosing is not fair. Fairness is when everyone gets the same thing. Is that what you want?

Why would God choose us before we're born? Because we don't have any merit afterwards!

God's choice is always framed in love and graciousness. Deut. 7:6-8

We are chosen for a purpose – to be holy and blameless *in His sight*.

How can one be holy and blameless in God's sight? Only by the cross!

Application: How does being chosen make you feel?

How might it cause you to live differently, knowing that you have a purpose God's sight?

3) Your destiny is about God

What is the alternative to predestination? A god who has no control over creation.

"In love..." – Commentary: *"Any interpretation of this mysterious doctrine that detracts from the love of God is rightly suspect."*

Predestination is "by the kind intention of His will." It's a continuation of Paul's thought that we've been blessed. And those blessings are safe and secure.

Adopted as sons!

We are fatherless, helpless, powerless before our adoption. Romans 5:6, Eph. 2:4

Adoption changes everything about your world. You receive a name, rights, privileges.

Those whom God adopts get FULL rights and privileges, become heirs. Romans 8:17

We cannot lose Sonship. It's another blessing that's safe and secure in the heavenlies.

Application: Feeling unworthy or disenfranchised by race, class, gender, age, nationality? Adopted children have every right and privilege of a new identity. Quit qualifying yourself as "adopted" and live like a sibling of Jesus and of every other Believer.

4) God's blessing is about God

Not a typo – Paul's thought has come full circle in verse 5b-6.

Never doubt that God is gracious and loving, even when your senses tell you differently.

A last illustration: How would you live if you knew the end was assured?

A last concern: Have I been chosen? "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Ro.10:13