

EPHESIANS 1:5 PREDESTINATION AND ADOPTION

This verse makes us recall what has gone before, in that we can stand before God, holy and blameless in love. But it does not stop there. We are going into something even more supremely glorious. We keep climbing up this grand mountain overlooking unbelievable sights. Just when we think we have seen the ultimate, there is more. We can't hardly take it anymore, it's so astounding. Not only do we stand before God, we stand before Him as adopted sons. We are truly staggered by this view of God's glory. We gaze at these truths and we don't just want to make a momentary glance. We want to ponder on them and let them penetrate in our hearts.

John Calvin: The mercy of God is nowhere acknowledged in more elevated language, this passage demands our careful attention.

1. PREDESTINATION

When predestinate is used, it is different from chosen. Paul is not just repeating himself. He is saying something different.

(Prohorizo)- To determine beforehand, to declare beforehand
Predetermine. To mark out the boundary or limits beforehand To determine a destiny, The decree is prior to the realization of its object
Thought out and purposed in the mind of God This is dealing with God's ultimate plan.

The *Difference* Between Chosen and Predestined—

Chosen—Emphasizes the way or means, or method, or mode that the plan has been put into operation and has been accomplished
It is the execution of the plan.

Predestined- Emphasizes the plan

Sometimes seen as foreordained—In NT always used of God as determining from eternity sometimes with the phrase "before the age." 1 Cor 2:7 Acts 4:28, Rom 8:29

He did this in Himself. This means that God did not seek a cause outside Himself, but predestined us, because such was His will. It was for His own satisfaction.

He previously marked us out with a view to placing us as adult sons for Himself, for His satisfaction, that He might lavish His love on us as His sons, that He might give us the high privilege of sonship to and fellowship with Him, that He might be glorified in saving us and being the recipient of our worship and service.

How staggering this is. Before the foundation of the world, it was God's plan and purpose that certain members of the fallen race of Adam—who had fallen right away from God, and had become aliens under the wrath of God, who deserved eternal punishment—should become sons of God. That is God's original purpose and plan in redemption. In order for God to carry that plan out, He chose certain people to be brought to that glorious destiny. Certain things had to be done to prepare them for that destiny. They were to become holy and blameless in love. There is an original purpose and to bring that purpose to pass, they have to be made holy and without holiness, they couldn't stand before God.

Is this the most wonderful glorious thing you have ever looked at in all of your life? We are face to face with the most astounding thing that the Almighty God has planned and done for us. If this doesn't excite us and make us delighted, we might ask if we are really children of God.

2. ADOPTION

(Huiiothesia) "to place", "an adult son"

The act of God placing the selected out ones as adult sons

Paul must have borrowed this thought from Roman law. Adoption secured for the adopted child a right to the name and to the property of the person by whom he had been adopted. It also granted the rights of the adopter, all the rights and privileges of the father. It does not deal with the nature here, but upon the legal standing, the position, rank, privileges.

Legal term

The place or status as a son

Rank and distinction

We become sons of God and are introduced into and given the privileges that belong to membership of God's family

What is the difference between regeneration and adoption?

Gal 4:1-5

While he is still a little child, he is little different from a servant. He is under servants who correct and teach him. They seem to be superior to the child until a certain age.

When he comes of age, a declaration is made concerning his status and position as heir. He is no more a son than before, but now is in a different standing or position.

Our adoption is the highest expression of God's love. 1 John 3:1

Tell this to an unbeliever and they will not be moved. It is boring to them.

PRIVILEGES

1. We have a special intimacy with God Rom 8:15
1. We bear the name of God Eph 2:19
2. We are given the Spirit of God Gal 4:4-6, John 3:34, Rom 8:14
3. We are heirs of God Rom 8:17, Matthew 5:3,5
4. We have a guarantee we will be glorified Rom 8:23
5. We have glorious liberty 2 pet 3:13
6. We have the surety that nothing will separate us from God—Rom 8
7. We will judge angels 1 Cor 6:2-3

God selected certain from among mankind to be included within the saving work of Christ, and those selected, He predestined to be placed as adult sons and to be conformed to the image of His own Son. What a height of glory we have come.