

Eph 1:5–6 (ESV) he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁽⁶⁾ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

1. We've seen we are chosen by God before the foundation of the world

- A. This is a gracious choice based on nothing meritorious in us = Grace. Unmerited Favor
- B. Now the Apostle begins to expound on the blessings that brings into our life
 - 1). He begins by telling us that he has “predestined us to be adopted into his family”

Point: Not only will we stand before God “blameless” v. 4

- A. We will stand before him as his Sons and daughters

2. Here we have the introduction of a new theological concept “Predestination”

- A. To “Predestinate” means to determine beforehand
 - 1). In V. 4 God chose who would be his
 - 2). In V. 5 he determined beforehand that we would be adopted to be his children

Transition: Predetermined to be adopted – let’s dig into what adoption is

I. ADOPTION

Eph 1:5 (ESV) he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

1. Great term only the Apostle Paul uses in the NT

- A. Adoption was not a part of the Jewish legal system - Paul borrowed this concept from Rome
 - 1). Shouldn’t surprise us - Paul was a Roman citizen – raised in Tarsus – familiar with Roman law

2. Under Roman law adoption gave great security to the adopted child

- A. The adopting parent became legally responsible for the care of that child
- B. The child was given the name and the full rights to all that the adopting parent possessed

Point: The Spirit carefully chooses this legal analogy to bring God’s children great assurance

- A. Tells us we have been given a *legal status* as sons and daughters and full rights to the family possessions
This also tells us that God has placed himself under a legal obligation to care for us
 - 1). God is stressing to us that he is bound to take care of us – to provide, protect, love etc.
 - 2). This is meant to be a hammer blow against worry and anxiety
 - a). Why aren’t you panicking “Well, my God has bound himself to care for me.”
- C. Legally bound – that could sound like there is no joy – but that’s not the case

Eph 1:5 (ESV) he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, *according to the purpose of his will,*

Eph 1:5 (NLT) His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. *And this gave him great pleasure.*

- 1). He took on that legal obligation to care for us willingly – joyfully – with great pleasure
 - a). He loves being your Father

Transition: Let’s look at some of the privileges that come into the lives of those who are adopted

- A. We are going to rush over these – every point could be a study on it is own

II. THE PRIVILEGES OF ADOPTION

We must start with the amazing truth of what adoption does

We really are the children of God

1 Jn 3:1 (ESV) See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

1. It doesn't get any better. Loved by God. Adopted into his family

- A. The world has nothing comparable to this – in fact it is not interested in this at all
 - 1). It's interested in the temporal – the material – MONEY and the phony security it brings
- B. Spectrum witnessing. McLaren in valet parking lot. People drooling
If I would have shouted out. Want to know something really exciting "I'm a child of God"
"So what! You're blocking our view! Get out of the way Jesus Freak!"
 - 1). Unless God turns their heart by grace they have no interest in things like this
 - a). They cling to the temporal – that which can be taken in an instant
 - b). Look up images for new car driving out of the dealer accident – tons - \$1,000,000 Ferrari

Point: The world offers nothing that will carry on beyond the grave

- A. But my sonship is eternal – it will never end – in fact the thrill of it just keeps on growing
 - 1). The anticipation of enjoying it fully when I'm with him is getting stronger

2. Does that thrill you Christian? That you are a member of his family?

- A. Does that comfort you who feel you do not matter. "Who cares about me?" – God does!
- B. Maybe you're being persecuted – despised – ridiculed – forsaken because of your faith
 - 1). God sees and will reward you greatly – he will make it worth it
Mat 5:10-12 (NIV) Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11) "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. (12) Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Summary: First privilege of adoption: We are Children of God

- A. Learn to walk in the daily wonder of what that means it will change you
 - 1). Worries will begin to fade – circumstances will have less impact
 - a). I'm His child! He's in control. I can rest

Transition: My Father is God! How exciting! Let's move to the second great benefit of adoption

We Are Given the Spirit of God

Ga 4:4-6 (ESV) But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁽⁵⁾ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁽⁶⁾ And because you are sons, *God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"*

1. The same Spirit that was in Christ when he walked on earth now dwells in us

- A. That same Spirit that enabled Jesus to do what he did
Lk 4:1 (ESV) And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan...
- B. He now dwells in us to enable us to live the Christian life – a Christlike life
 - 1). To enable us to perform those works for God that have been already set up for us
Eph 2:10 (ESV) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- C. Christ was dependent upon the Spirit to live for the Father – we have the same Spirit

2. Does that amaze you? God himself has taken up residence in you!

- A. That means you have everything necessary to live for God! Same power Christ had

Transition: Because we are adopted we have become sons and daughters of God

- A. And the Spirit of God has taken up residence in us
- B. Let's look at the third benefit of adoption

We Are Heirs and Joint-Heirs with Christ

Ro 8:17 (ESV) and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ...

1. Adoption legally gives us rights to all the family possesses

- A. You are rich beyond your wildest imagination – you just don't possess it all yet
 - 1). But hang on – it's coming! All that Christ has you have too! He has everything

Because We Are Adopted We Have a Sure Future

Ro 8:23 (ESV) And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly *as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

1. Paul had no fear as he looked into the future – he was God's child – secure

- A. God chose us – adopted us is responsible to keep us

Rom 8:38-39 (NIV) For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, (39) neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

 - 1). Neither hell nor any other power can separate me from the love of Christ
 - 2). My Father promises he will never leave me nor forsake me – I'm secure in his loving grip
- B. Romans 8:23 tells us because we are sons of God through adoption

There is coming a day when our bodies will be set free from every complication of sin

 - 1). A time where we will cast off any remaining effects of the fall
 - A time where we will dwell in a place where the fall did not touch
- C. I am not redeemed yet – my body can't handle the presence of God yet
 - 1). But soon I will be Bill 2.0 – the upgraded model – a body fit to be in God's presence

Transition: Because we are adopted

- A. We have become sons and daughters of God
- B. The Spirit of God has taken up residence in us
- C. We are heirs and joint-heirs with Christ
- D. We have a guaranteed future – in the grip of his love
- E. The next one is one we rarely think about – but it is the privilege of those who are adopted children

The Children of God Will Judge the Angels

1 Co 6:2–3 (ESV) Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? ⁽³⁾ Do you not know that we are to judge angels?

1. Because we are adopted children of God we are higher than the angels

- A. They are but ministering spirits – we are children of God
 - 1). I don't know exactly what this means – but wow! What a status we have!

APPLICATION: Do you realize these privileges?

1. If you do – it changes everything doesn't it?

- A. We look at life through a different lens – it removes fear and anxiety – it gives boldness
- B. When we really grip this – this becomes primary – everything else secondary
 - 1). Everything is run through this thought – I have a Father who will care for me
- C. Brothers and sisters – I'm only giving you a sampling of this
 - 1). Take these truths prayerfully before God – linger over them until they grip your heart
 - 2). Until they fill you with joy and peace – until they dispel your fear and worry

Lloyd-Jones: "Praise be unto God for having looked upon us miserable, damned sinners, and for having raised us up to such an indescribable height of glory."

- Transition:** But why did God choose us and adopt us – it is because he loved us – see that in many scriptures
- A. But Paul gives us another reason here

III. THE PURPOSE OF ELECTION AND PREDESTINATION

Eph 1:6 (ESV) to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

The Great Design of All This Is to Bring God Glory

1. Everything God does is to bring glory to himself

- A. From creation – Ps. 19 “The heavens declare the glory of God.”
- B. To salvation – Eph 1:6 choosing us to be his children is for the praise of his glory

2. Does that bother you? Does that make God seem like an egotist?

- A. We think that way because we have problems with egos – all of us

Laurence J. Peter: There are two kinds of egotists: Those who admit it, and the rest of us.

Vance Havner: An egotist is a man who talks about himself so much that you don't have a chance to talk about yourself.

- B. But God doesn't share in our weaknesses – he wasn't affected by the fall at all – no sin in him

- 1). Everything he does is perfect and right – there are no flaws in his character
- a). Therefore, when he desires glory it is the right thing to do

Thought: AND for him to expect us to live for his glory is the most loving thing he can do

1 Co 10:31 (ESV) So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

- A. As we do that we focus on him rather than us

- 1). We remove ourselves from the center of everything we do
- a). As we start living for him he pours his blessings out upon us
- b). AND God becomes very real in our life because he is at the center of our life
- 1a). As we exalt him our life begins to work like it should – like he created it

Point: So for God to desire glory and praise is the right thing to do – the creature praising their creator

- A. For him to desire glory and praise is the most loving thing to do

- 1). As we respond our Christianity soars – it becomes what it should be

Transition: So all of this is to create praise. But praise needs fuel. Needs reason.

- A. We have seen the wonders of adoption – that should produce praise

- 1). Let's add some more kindling to ignite our heart – to
- 2). But Paul also mentions glory here – We see God's glory in our salvation/adoption
- a). As we ponder that it will produce praise

- B. We will start with a feeble attempt to define glory – which one scholar described as impossible

- 1). The glory of God is so far beyond us – beyond anything we've ever seen – it is hard
- 2). One day we will see it – now we see through a glass darkly

IV. HOW OUR SALVATION GLORIFIES GOD

Eph 1:6 (ESV) *to the praise of his glorious grace*, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

1. What is glory?

- A. Ex. 33 - When Moses asked God to see his glory – He passed before him and showed him his goodness

- 1). We could start by saying we see God's glory when we see his goodness
- a). He is good in our salvation, provision, protection, comfort, encouragement
- b). These and so much more are manifestations of his glory

- B. The website “Got questions” defines it like this
The glory of God is the beauty of His spirit. It is not an aesthetic beauty or a material beauty, but it is the beauty that emanates from His character, *from all that He is*
- C. It is all that God is – His majesty – beauty – power – love – mercy – kindness and on and on and on
- 1). This Glory is all around us
Is 6:3 (ESV) And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; *the whole earth is full of his glory!*”
 - a). This room is filled with glory – we just don’t have the eyes to see it
 - b). One day we will
Re 21:23 (ESV) And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.
 - 1a). One day we will be continuously bathed in God’s glory and KNOW IT
 - 2). But right now we just get faint glimpses and struggle to define this incredible reality of God
 - a). That frustrates me and at the same time I am glad God is bigger than my pea brain
- Transition:** One of the places we see his glory (beauty – goodness) in its clearest form is in our salvation
- A. We see it clear enough that it should produce praise – I’ll pick out a few things that amaze me

The Glory of God in Our Salvation

1. Seen in his power – raising the spiritually dead to life

- A. Mankind was born dead – spiritual death is unable to respond to God
Just as in physical death there is no response no matter how strong the stimulus
- 1). In saving us God performs the miracle of bringing dead people back to life
Eph 2:1 (ESV) And you were dead in the trespasses and sins
 - 2). But here comes the goodness of God – the glory of God
Eph 2:4–5 (ESV) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁽⁵⁾ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—
 - a). Great love – mercy – grace = God’s glory on display in our salvation
- Question:** Do you realize what a miracle you are Christian? How amazing your salvation is!

- A. Next one we sort of looked at in last section in God taking up residence in you

2. The glory of God in our salvation seen in his infilling

- A. In the OT the glory of God spoke of the immediate presence of God
- 1). 1 Kings the glory filled the temple – God’s glory resided in the Holy of holies
- B. It is the same glory Isaiah saw in Isaiah 6
Is 6:1–4 (ESV) In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ⁽²⁾ Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ⁽³⁾ And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; *the whole earth is full of his glory!*” ⁽⁴⁾ *And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.*
- C. Think of this – in salvation – that same glory of the Lord takes up residence in us
1 Cor 6:19 (NIV) Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you...
- 1). Human vocabulary is to menial to describe such a truth – God lives in us
 - a). God has stooped in love to save us and then to indwell us – to move into us
 - b). Isaiah saw his glory in the Temple – we now are the temple where that glory dwells
 - c). That glory that was so great foundations of the temple couldn’t withstand it – is in you

3. Glory seen in our exalted position

Eph 1:5–6 (ESV) he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁽⁶⁾ to the praise of his glorious grace, *with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*

- A. That doesn't really capture what Paul is saying
- 1). The word rendered "which he has blessed us" – *charitoō* –
Found only in one other place – in Luke – Gabriel addressing Mary
Luke 1:28 (NKJV) And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, *highly favored one*, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"
 - a). God had chosen Mary out of all the world to bear his son
 - b). *Charitoō* – from charis (grace) – Rejoice Mary you have been graced!
- B. Paul now says in a similar way – we who have been chosen are highly favored in the beloved
- 1). We have an exalted position in the universe – My Father is the creator! Owns it all!
Psa 24:1 (NLT) The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.
 - a). Guess what – it all belongs to me too! The privilege of adoption

4. The glory of God's wisdom seen in our salvation

- A. I'm amazed at the brilliance of God in working out a way for me to be saved
My sin created a huge problem – how could God let somebody like me into heaven
- 1). Didn't he say "the wages of sin is death" (Rom 6:23)
Didn't he say "the soul that sins shall surely die" (Ezek. 18:20)
 - 2). That is speaking of the "Second death" – hell – so how can I go to heaven?
 - a). Because God in love sent a substitute to live the life I was required to live = *righteousness*
And to die the death I deserved to die because I couldn't live that life = *forgiveness*
 - b). A death has taken place – the penalty I owed has been paid
 - 3). Based on this God can declare me to be justified = not guilty – acquitted of all charges
Ro 8:1 (ESV) There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
 - a). He can do that without playing games with his justice
 - 4). Paul talks about the brilliance of God in salvation
Ro 3:25–26 (ESV) whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. *This was to show God's righteousness*, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ⁽²⁶⁾ *It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*
- B. I'm amazed at what God does to those he does save – the change he causes
- 1). Man tries to deal with man's sin through legislation, education, if that doesn't work - incarceration
Yet society just keeps getting worse – unraveling at the seams – why "controlled by sin nature"
 - 2). When God saves a man he gets to heart – change that nature continuously pumping out rebellion
 - a). What is left is a new man and woman who desire to live properly – holy – Christlike life
 - b). That's why Scripture says "Those who are in Christ are a new creation"

Transition: One more – we could go on and on with this – but time is running out

5. His glory in our salvation seen in the praise of the heavenly hosts

- A. Listen as the heavenly host celebrates what God is doing for sinful man
Lk 2:13–14 (ESV) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ⁽¹⁴⁾ *"Glory to God in the highest*, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"
- 1). Angels look at God moving to rescue man and see glory – God's goodness, power, majesty
 - a). God himself has come to earth – he is lying in a manger in Bethlehem
The beauty and majesty of God on display – He has become man to reach man
- B. They didn't understand everything about this – it amazed them – they longed to look into it

1 Pe 1:12 (ESV) It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, *things into which angels long to look.*

- 1). Almighty God leaving glory to reach out in love to those who hate him – blaspheme him
 - a). Men who love sin and want nothing to do with his ways
- 2). They are amazed at the grace God has shown to man
 - a). It wasn't shown to them – when angels fell they were doomed for eternity
 - b). The angels that fell were judged justly – the one that sins shall die – separated from God
- 3). But we who are his have been highly honored – we have been graced by God!
- C. No wonder Paul refers to the Gospel as - “The *gospel of the glory* of the blessed God.” 1 Tim 1:11

Transition: We could go on and on – but one last thing – how should we respond?

IV. THE REASONABLE RESPONSE FROM GLORY RECIPIENTS

Eph 1:6 (ESV) to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

1. Chosen, predestined, adopted, kept – the response is obvious – PRAISE

- A. Praise means celebrating God.
 - 1). We all know what that means – we've celebrated 4th of July – Memorial Day
 - a). There is a purpose behind that – not just to set off fireworks and have a BBQ
 - b). These events are to honor sacrifices of those who went before and paid the cost of freedom
- B. As Christians our lives are living tributes to God's grace – living billboards
 - 1). God has chosen us, adopted us, highly favored us – Paul says that should produce praise
A celebrating of what God has done
LAB: When others look at our lives, what kinds of “tributes” do they see? Liberated, engaging individuals, full of gratitude for all he has done for us? Or shrivelled, sullen, embittered shells that feel as though we've been cheated out of life's good things? Let your prayer life and worship express your gratitude to God.

CONCLUSION

1. The thrilling truth of adoption – so much beauty and glory in it

- A. It is a truth meant to fuel praise – but for that to happen it must grip your heart
 - 1). You must linger over these things – until they thrill you like they should

2. This is for all who are “in Christ”