

Series: Ephesians: Our Life In Christ

Sermon: Jackpot! (part 1)

Passage: Ephesians 1:3-6

Illustration:

Need: Christians never need to wonder if they will be able to accomplish what God has called them to.

I. A fitting Eulogy (Eph. 1:3-14)

- These verse make up only one sentence in the Greek. 202 words.
- Eulogia (Gr. fine speaking, praise) english word eulogy. Similar to Mary & Zechariah in Luke 1.
- Praise for the triune God: the Father who chooses, the Son who redeems, the Holy Spirit who seals.

II. Blessed by God the Father (1:3)

- “every spiritual blessing” - every/all spiritual benefits needed for his/her spiritual wellbeing.
- “in the heavenly realms” - the source of the every/all spiritual benefits.
- “in Christ” - the how/means. Through faith in Jesus we are brought “in” him. In Him we are blessed.
- Who? us, What? every spiritual benefit, Where? in the heavenly realms, How? in Christ, When? see vs 4.

III. Chosen by God the Father (1:4)

- The remaining verses 4-14 explain the process/manner/cause of God’s blessing.
- “he chose us” - God chose, with personal interest, the believer (who had no personal merit or legal claim on God) without disdain for the one not chosen.
- John 15:16 - Jesus said “You did not choose me but I chose you...”
- The doctrine of election is a hard one that cannot be fully reconciled with the doctrine of Free Will. This, however, cannot negate what God has revealed about both that are equally true. They exist in tension.
- “before the foundation of the world” - prior to the creation of the universe.
- “holy and blameless before Him” - refers to the believers future in God’s presence.

IV. Adopted by God the Father (1:5-6)

- This expounds on why He chose us. “He chose us...having predestined us.”
- “Predestined” - to determine before hand. (This word not used in OT or LXX, only 6 x’s in the NT)
- The chosen ones were predestined for “adoption/sonship.”
- In a Roman Adoption the adoptee was no longer obligated to the natural father, the new father had absolute control over the adoptee, and the purpose was for continuing the family name and maintaining property ownership.
- “through Jesus Christ” - Jesus is the agent of our adoption as sons & daughters.
- “according the purpose of His will” - It was the good will of God the Father, it pleased Him.
- All this for His children to praise Him for the glorious grace He bestowed on them in His beloved Son.

V. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

- We’ve got all we need to accomplish all He asks. Move forward in them.
- We’re not living to measure up to His approval. He chose us in eternity past to adopt us as His children.