

CHOSEN FOR ADOPTION

Ephesians 1:3-6

1

GOD'S FATHERLY BLESSING COMES TO US THROUGH UNION WITH HIS SON (V. 3)

- A. We cannot divorce the blessings of salvation from Christ's Person.
- B. We cannot divorce the blessings of salvation from Christ's resurrection.

2

GOD'S FATHERLY BLESSING COMES TO US ON THE BASIS OF HIS ETERNAL PURPOSE (V. 4-5)

- A. God's electing love is sovereign and free.
- B. God's electing love is unto adoption.
- C. God's electing love is unto holiness.

3

GOD'S FATHERLY BLESSING COMES TO US THAT WE MIGHT WORSHIP HIM (V. 6)

- A. This praise is sustained by God's grace.
- B. This praise is not dependent upon our circumstances.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. How are all three persons of the Trinity revealed in v. 3?
2. Why does Paul keep saying that our salvation is "in Christ"? What does this mean?
3. How is the doctrine of predestination practical?
4. Why did God set His love upon people before the world began? Was it because of anything they did?
5. How can we know that we are chosen by God and adopted?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Has my earthly father shaped my view of God?
2. What does it mean to be an adopted child of God? Do I know the love of God in this way? Am I enjoying the privileges of the sons of God? See Westminster Confession ch. 12.
3. Is my praise toward God dependent upon my circumstances? Do I only praise Him when things are going well, or even in the darkest valley? How can I grow in praise?
4. If someone were to ask me what it means to be a Christian, how would I respond in light of this text?

"Do I, as a Christian, understand myself? Do I know my own real identity? My own real destiny? I am a child of God. God is my Father; heaven is my home; every day is one day nearer. My Savior is my brother; every Christian is my brother too. Say it over and over to yourself first thing in the morning, last thing at night, as you wait for the bus, any time when your mind is free, and ask that you may be enabled to live as one who knows it is all utterly and completely true. For this is the Christian's secret of—a happy life?—yes, certainly, but we have something both higher and profounder to say. This is the Christian's secret of a Christian life, and of a God-honoring life, and these are the aspects of the situation that really matter. May this secret become fully yours, and fully mine" (J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, 228).