

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLE

CHAPTER 1:5-6

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER WNX190 ~ FEB. 21, 1996

TITLE:

"WE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN IN CHRIST - PART 2"
THE BELIEVERS PLACE IN CHRIST

THEME:

Ephesians 1:3

**"Blessed be the God and Father of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ."**

INTRODUCTION

The Doctrine of Predestination *based Upon Foreknowledge: is the most
comforting, exciting, liberating and empowering doctrines taught in the Bible...*

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those
who are the called according to His purpose. Why ? Because...
:29 For whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined**

Jesus Exercised His Foreknowledge

John 14:29

"And now I have told you before it comes to pass,
that when it does come to pass, you might believe.

***What if I were to say that, "I know that a man is going to walk thru that
door. Wearing a Hebrew pray shawl around his neck & a Russian hat upon his
head..."***

A large Hawaiian man... what would you say? NOW GUY- NOW!

*

Foreknow GRK 4267 proginosko (prog-in-occe'-ko)

to know beforehand, to have knowledge of an event, before it happens, to ordain based upon foreknowldge...

Predestination

Is based upon God's foreknowledge (election) is a call to holy living !!!

Ephesians 1:4

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,
#1 that we should be holy and #2 without blame before Him in love,

God has determined beforehand...

That those who would believe in Jesus Christ should be..

-
- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| #1 | Adopted into the Family of God | (Romans 8:29) |
| #2 | Conformed into the image of His Son | (Romans 8:29-30) |

God has not programmed people to believe, but those who did believe - He has predetermined their lives to be His own

Predestination

- *It Involves a Choice on God's Part (v.4)*
- *It is Determined in Love (v.4&5)*
- *It Involves a choice on Man's Part (v. 13)*

In God's Sovereignty, He was provided man the responsibility of choice - to agree or disagree with Him. To choose Him to resist Him: God has built this into the creation, in love it's His will, the pleasure of God. Yet there is a great struggle in the hearts of some people - because of the pollutants that have been added by many denominations...

1.) The Believer's "Peace of Mind" *vv. 4b*

The TRUTH of Predestination *THE ULTIMATE UNDERSTANDING - IN LOVE*

:4

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Predestination

- a) *It Was Determined Before Time Began*
- b) *It Was Based Upon God's Foreknowledge*
- c) *It is (IS) Not Without Man's Responsibility*

For Evangelism to be Evangelism There has to be a double-edged sword about it

There is a responsibility to those who hear the Message

2 Corinthians 2:14

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. :15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. :16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?

Mark 16:15

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Matthew 28:19

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

Hebrews 3:7

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, :8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness,

*I reject points 3&4 of the 5 point Calvinist view
#3 Limited Atonement & #4 Irresistible Grace*

*#4 "Irresistible Grace":
meaning that even if a person wanted to reject Jesus
Christ - he will not be able to do so*

Turn to Luke 14:16 The Invitation

Our Current Standing as Christians:

2 Corinthians 5:18

*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through
Jesus Christ, and has given us **the ministry of reconciliation***

His Everlasting Message to the World:

2 Corinthians 5:19

*That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not imputing their trespasses to them**, and has committed to us the word
of reconciliation.*

#3 Limited Atonement

*I reject the teaching of Christ's Limited Atonement upon the Cross was
just for the Elect or those who believe - He died for all mankind in all
ages*

John 3:16

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that
whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

Mankind's Responsibility to God:

2 Corinthians 5:20

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were **pleading** through us: we **implore** you on Christ's behalf, be **reconciled** to God.

The Universal Invitation to Respond:

2 Corinthians 6:1

We then, as workers together with Him also **plead** with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

To those who receive God's Invitation of Grace

1. Faith is Given to Believe

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

2. Salvation is received:

Acts 2:21

And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

3. Life is Restored

John 10:10

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (Have it to the full)

4. Assurance is Known:

Hebrews 7:25

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.

2.) The Believers "New Family" in Christ vv. 5

The thrill of Predestination

THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL

**[In Love] having predestined us to adoption
as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself,**

a) In Love - He's made me a son

Understanding Our True Relationship to Abba Father God

Galatians 4:4

But when the fullness of the time had dock, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, :5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. :6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" :7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

His perplexed desire was for me to become part of His Family by "adoption"

God is Not Stuck With Me - He is Stuck on Me

Romans 8:15-16

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." :16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Father Is the Christian Name for God

A Touching Scene:

Luke 9:38

Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, "Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child." (The son of me)

Mark 9:7

And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son." (The son of me)

b) His Purposes is for Good

"According to the good please of His will"

God is Good *He is Light & He is Love & He is Holy*

- *He has created Light, He has Given Light and He Himself is Light*
- *He has created love, He has Given love and He Himself, Loves*
- *He has created holiness, He has Given holiness and He Himself is Holy*

But There is Evil All Around

- *There is war*
- *There is death*
- *There is pain*
- *There is sickness*

*God, Who is Creator and Sustainer...
is also the Redeemer of what has fallen*

His “Good Pleasure” means
#1 That He is taking what was damaged by man & by
Satan and is
#2 Redeeming it back by His will which is good...

PERSONALLY,

*Even the wars, the deaths, the pain, the sickness, He will redeem the curse of
them in the end !!!*

This is impossible for Us to Understand

But God has an Eternal Purposes in Mind Regarding All Things
God has an Eternal Purposes in Mind

We Must Trust - Him at His Word

3.) The Believers “Glorious” Acceptance

vv. 6

The Triumph of Predestination *ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED*

a) *Grace Produces the Truest form of Praise*

To [the] praise of [the] glory of His grace,

* Praise GRK 1868 epainos (ep'-ahee-nos)
laudation; expression of Joy. this is the spontaneous reaction to the
Goodness of God. Experiencing The Grace of God upon your
life by faith

Psalm 8:3

*When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars,
which You have ordained,*

b) *Accepted completely because of He says so*

**[It is God's grace that enables] by which He has
made us accepted in the Beloved.**

* Accepted GRK 5487 charitoo (khar-ee-to'-o); to be indue with graces - &
special honor: to be highly favoured.

He's with me...

I am in the Family of God

In Russia they have those Matruska dolls one inside the other

Colossians 3:3

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Start seeing Yourself “Hidden - In - Christ”

- *There Is The Old You - Of The World*
- *There Is The New You - Of Heaven*

There is a Day Coming
When We will be released from the Old Man

Romans 6:11

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (

c) Grace & Acceptance Is Our New Address in Life

Ephesians 1:6

*To the praise of the glory of His grace..... **by which He has made us accepted** (Begraced) in the Beloved.*

During WW II many young women from Wales applied for passports to the United States but were denied. They then attempted to stow away in freighters bound for America but the officials in New York discovered them and rejected their entry and sent them back.

But at the close of the war, thousands of US Soldiers fell in love with these girls and marriage ceremonies were held every weekend for months.

The United States sent medical ships and clothing to these new brides to prepare them for their new arrival to America. Once rejected, the bride was now accepted because of her newlywed husband who was born an America... All the Customs Agent had to see was that she belonged to Him.

“I will serve you, because I love you, You have given life to me, I was nothing until You found me, You have given life to me, heart ache, broken people, ruined lives is why You died on Calvary, Your touch is what I long for.”