

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 8/18/2019

Ephesians 1: 3-6 Ephesians: The Gospel for All of Life

by Drew Hunter

The Electing Love of the Father

Overview

Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians by giving an incredibly expansive, deep, and true vision of God. Verses 3-6 are part of a longer section—actually one long, complicated sentence in Greek—which stretches from verse 3 to verse 14. In it Paul explodes with praise and invites his readers to join him. This text is here to help us get caught up into praising God for the blessings of salvation. Paul praises the Father for his grace in blessing us, choosing us, and adopting us. God has....

...**blessed us (verse 3)** Our salvation was planned by the Father, accomplished by the Son, and applied by the Holy Spirit. These blessings are true for all Christians. We learn to understand and enjoy them rather than strive to earn them.

...**chosen us (verse 4)** God's sovereignty in our salvation rightly understood is comforting. If you are a Christian, it is because you were chosen. This truth should lead to humility, a desire for holiness, and praise for God's kindness. Mystery remains about God's sovereign choice so we give grace to one another as we pursue understanding.

...**adopted us (verse 5)** Not only forgiven and declared righteous, we are brought into God's family. This is identity-forming.

Quotations

"God didn't start blessing you the moment you believed. He was actually blessing you before you were even made. He was blessing you from eternity past. He had you in mind. He was thinking about you. He loved you in this special way before you were even made. And this means that God's choice is not a response to our choice. God's choice comes first. He chose us before the foundation of the world, and then in history he brings us to faith by his grace."

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Understanding & Application

- 1) Our salvation was planned by the Father, accomplished by the Son, and applied by the Spirit. How is each of these significant to you? Which one of these are you most likely to forget about or downplay?
- 2) Respond to this set of questions and answers. "Why am I a Christian? *Because I chose to trust and follow Christ.* Why did I choose Christ? *Because God chose me.*"
- 3) How does being chosen by God to belong to him eternally bring about humility rather than pride? How does it lead to a desire to seek holiness rather than result in spiritual apathy?
- 4) Is praising the Lord for his choosing you something that you do?
- 5) How do we leave ample room for mystery in these matters of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility?
- 6) How should being adopted into God's family be identity-forming for a believer?

