

He Has Blessed Us in the Beloved

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

God’s Ultimate Purpose

The end, God’s end, in our predestination to adoption, is, that the glory,—glorious nature, brightness and majesty, and kindness and beauty,—of His grace might be an object of men and angels’ praise: both as it is in Him, ineffable and infinite,—and exemplified in *us, its objects* (Alford, H. (2010). *Alford's Greek Testament: An exegetical and critical commentary* (Eph 1:6). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.)

“God predestined us to sonship through Jesus Christ for himself according to the good pleasure of his will.” The point of this text is to teach every believer this morning that we owe our adoption into God’s family to the “good pleasure of God’s will.” We were chosen before the foundation of the world; we were predestined to sonship and holiness and love not according to what we had done, or according to what we understood, or according to who our parents were, or according to our race, or according to religious background, or according to where we lived, or according to our work or our status or wealth, or according to what we willed. We were chosen and predestined according to the good pleasure of God’s will. And the point of the double phrase (not just “according to his will” but) “the good pleasure of his will” is meant to communicate to us that God chose us and predestined us without any binding reference point but his own sovereign will. – John Piper

1. The ultimate goal of God’s election is that believers will be glorifying God to **“the praise of His glorious grace”** towards us.
2. This praise is to the **Father** – similar expressions of praise are also given after the work of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**.

“In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so

*that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be **to the praise of his glory.*** ” (Ephesians 1:10–12, ESV)

*“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, **to the praise of his glory.**”* (Ephesians 1:13–14, ESV)

3. This praise is for His grace that He has bestowed upon His **avored ones**.

The Greek word here is Charitoo [char-eee-tow] and means to bestow favor on – to bless.

“And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ” (Luke 1:28, ESV)

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

4. And He has done this **in the Beloved**.

“and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”(Matthew 3:17, ESV)

“He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” (Matthew 17:5, ESV)

“The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ” (John 3:35, ESV)

“For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.” (John 10:17, ESV)

“He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ” (Colossians 1:13, ESV)

5. God gave up His Son for all of us. Who is the us?

“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32, ESV)

6. His **elect** – His **chosen ones** whom He bestows His favor upon.

“And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.” (Romans 8:30–33, ESV)

*“even as he **chose** us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he **predestined** us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.” (Ephesians 1:4–6, ESV)*

7. How can we praise Him for His glorious grace – with which He has blessed us in the Beloved – if we don’t have a right view of His grace?

The answer is we won’t give Him all the glory, all the honor all the praise that is due His name and therefore will rob God of His right.

God in himself, by the good pleasure of his will, has predestined us for adoption, and has, by his grace, received us to his favor. In the word *predestine* we must again notice the sequence. **We did not exist when we were predestined; hence, our merit also was nonexistent!** Therefore, the cause of our salvation could not have been from us, but was from God alone. Paul, still not satisfied, adds in himself, which in Greek is εἰς αὐτὸν and means the same as ἐν αὐτῷ. By this he means that God did not look for a cause outside himself, but predestined us because it was his will to do it. – John Calvin

God did this solely - for His good pleasure

“for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”
(Philippians 2:13, ESV)

“To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Thessalonians 1:11–12, ESV)

The form of the Gr. verb behind “chose” indicates that God not only chose by Himself but for Himself to the praise of His own glory...Through God’s sovereign will before the creation of the world and, therefore, obviously independent of human influence and apart from any human merit, those who are saved have become eternally united with Christ Jesus...(1Pe 1:20; Rev 13:8; 17:8). Holy and blameless before Him describes both a purpose and a result of God’s choosing those who are to be saved. Unrighteous persons are declared righteous, unworthy sinners are declared worthy of salvation, all because they are chosen “in Him” (Christ). This refers to Christ’s imputed righteousness granted to us - a perfect righteousness which places believers in a holy and blameless position before God... John MacArthur

8. The Greek word for Praise is Epainos [ep-an-nos] and means the act of expressing praise, approval, recognition. In this verse what are we recognizing – the fact that God saved us by His grace!!!

“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be held in awe above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place. Ascribe to the Lord, O clans of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, “The Lord reigns!”” (1 Chronicles 16:24–31, ESV)

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:6–7, ESV)

Spurgeon Quotes on Praise

⁹⁴⁰I feel like that good old saint, who said that if she got to heaven, Jesus Christ should never hear the last of it. Truly he never shall!—11.336

⁹⁴¹Preaching is sowing, prayer is watering, but praise is the harvest.—17.717

⁹⁴²Prayer is the stalk of the wheat, but praise is the ear of the wheat. It is the harvest itself. When God is praised, we have come to the ultimatum. This is the thing for which all other things are designed.—26.28

⁹⁴³Praise is the rehearsal of our eternal song. By grace we learn to sing, and in glory we continue to sing. What will some of you do when you get to heaven, if you go on grumbling all the way? Do not hope to get to heaven in that style. But now begin to bless the name of the Lord.—36.12

⁹⁴⁴Two Welshmen were going out to preach, and they parted at the crossroads. One of them said to his friend, “Brother Jones, may you get the light of his countenance in your preaching today!”

“I hope so, brother,” he answered, “but if I do not get the light of his countenance, I will speak well of him behind his back!”

Just so! When we see his face, we realize what a blessed Christ he is. But if we do not see his face, we are not going to find fault with him.—41.316

⁹⁴⁵It is a good thing to praise Christ in the presence of his friends. It is sometimes a better thing to extol him in the presence of his enemies. It is a great thing to praise Jesus Christ by day, but there is no music sweeter than the nightingale’s, and she praises God by night. It is well to praise the Lord for his mercy when you are in health, but make sure that you do it when you are sick, for then your praise is more likely to be genuine. When you are deep down in sorrow, do not rob God of the gratitude that is due to him. Never stint him of his revenue of praise whatever else goes short.—42.453

⁹⁴⁶If I did not praise and bless Christ my Lord, I should deserve to have my tongue torn out by its roots from my mouth. If I did not bless and magnify his name, I should deserve that every stone I tread on in the streets should rise up to curse my ingratitude, for I am a drowned debtor to the mercy of God—over head and ears—to infinite love and boundless compassion I am a

debtor. Are you not the same? Then I charge you by the love of Christ, awake, awake your hearts now to magnify his glorious name.—61.44¹

¹ Spurgeon, C. H., & Carter, T. (1995). *2,200 quotations : From the writings of Charles H. Spurgeon : Arranged topically or textually and indexed by subject, Scripture, and people* (Trade pbk. ed.) (141–142). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.