

Ephesians 1:1-6

8-06-25

It's All God's Doing: Chosen, Redeemed, Adopted

I. Announce:

- A. **Welcome** those online.
- B. **Slide1 REAL**: LAST summer REAL on Tues night, **Aug. 12th** at 7pm. Many of you weren't *able to come to the retreat* this year, so we are taking our theme on what it means to be ***Busy About our Father's Business***. (message, fun, fellowship).
- C. **Slide2 Foundations**: Foundations will help you level up your understanding of *Christian teachings & focus your biblical worldview*.
10 weeks, **Sept. 7-Nov. 9**. Enroll at calvarymurrieta.com/classes.
- D. **Slide3 Divorce Care**: Our next session will start on **Mon, Aug. 18th** at 6:30pm. It's a 13-week **support group** for those that may be *separated*, in the *early stages of divorce* or **have been divorced** for any length of time. This can be a lonely and confusing time. Come and join in, and begin your healing journey.
- E. **Slide4 Calvary Kids Christmas Play Auditions: Calling all actors!** We are looking to fill out our cast for our next Christmas play. **All 1st-8th grade students** are welcome to audition for a **speaking role** or **singing role**. Those who prefer to be in the **choir only** do not need to audition. All participants must **register on KidCheck** to be a part of the play.
- F. **Slide5** There are **responses** to all the questions we didn't get to in the **Q&A**. It's posted under **Sermons** and labeled **Q&A**.
- G. **Slide6** *Ephesians - Who we are in Christ - How we walk with Christ*.
- H. **Prayer**: Oh God help us to take this book *personally*.

II. **Slide7 Intro**: *It's All God's Doing: Chosen, Redeemed, Adopted*

- A. **Slide8** Tim Keller, "*Ephesians gives us a window into the heart of God: His plan of salvation was always designed to bring us into His family as His children. It is a **love letter** showing the depth and height of His love that we might comprehend with all saints.*"

B. Here's our quick historical background: (we learn from Acts 19)

1. On Paul's 2nd missionary journey he visited Ephesus, left Aquila & Priscilla behind. He returned 2 years later and ministered for 3 years.
2. Years later while under house arrest in Rome he writes this letter to the believers in Ephesus [3 other prison epistles: *Philippines*, *Colossians*, *Philemon*]
3. Ephesus was famous for its temple to Diana/Artemis (7th Wonder of the Ancient world). Ephesus emerged as **the religious center** of all Asia. They had a stadium that held 50,000 spectators. This is where the riot broke out regarding Paul & his friends. Extraordinary miracles took place by the hands of Paul ... people were healed from handkerchiefs & aprons laid on the sick, that had touched Paul's skin. Acts 19:11,12

C. In 2 weeks Kel & I celebrate our 42nd anniversary. When we started dating I let her know *early in our relationship* that *I had my eye on her for a long time. I was attracted to her before she knew it. I liked her before she liked me.* God says the same to us, in this letter!

1. Your parents may have communicated to you: *you weren't planned. You were an accident. You were a mistake. You'll never amount to anything.*
 - a) I can't fix your **past**, but I can point to our **present truth**, and our **future hope**.

D. Slide9 Let's read this **Love Letter** from God to His children. READ 1:1-6

III. Slide10 HE EMBEDDED US (1-2)

A. Embedded means *to fix firmly and deeply in a surrounding mass*. Dictionary

1. Paul's opening greeting reminds that salvation is **rooted in God's unchanging purpose**. (not in us)
 - a) Paul was an apostle *by the will of God*. The saints are *in Christ Jesus*. Grace and peace are rooted come *from* both the Father and the Son.
2. So both **grace** and **peace** are both **not based on your performance**.

B. Speak to camera - prayer time.

C. **Questions for prayer:** If our relationship with God is **rooted in God's unchanging purpose rather than on our works, goodness, or performance**. How should you thank Him?

1. Remind yourself, **grace and peace are not based on my performance**.
2. **Meditate on: In Christ** refers to the believer's **union and identification** with Christ. [in Christ 12 x's in Eph - 87 x's in NT]

IV. Slide11a **HE BLESSED US (3)** [note:3-14 form a single sentence in the GK text. *Longest in the Bible*]

A. See all the words *blessed* or *blessing* & *Praise* (like the 1st word used).

B. *Every spiritual blessing* is found **in Christ** and **kept** in the vault of **Heaven**.

1. **In the heavenly places** – because that's where they're found (as opposed to **earth**).
a) **Proton Mail** is an App I have (like **What's App** or **Signal w/end to end encryption**) I laughed when I read about it's **security**: **1 of the 3 places where Proton Mail is hosted is in Attinghausen, in the former K7 military bunker, under 3,300 ft of granite.**

2. **So** this is where **every sp blessing** originates and

C. **Every spiritual blessing** refers to *every spiritual enrichment needed for the spiritual life*.

1. Since these benefits have **already been given** to us believers, we should **not ask for them but rather appropriate them by faith**.
2. Similarly **Joshua** was **not to ask for land** since God had already promised it to him (Josh.1:3,4). **But** he was to **enter into the enjoyment** of that **provision**.

D. Paul reminds us **we are sp rich beyond measure ... yet often living like sp beggars**.

1. **Why?** Because we're **ignorant of our wealth**.
2. **Slide11b** The great Scottish Bible expositor **Alexander MacLaren** wrote: **We may have as much of God as we will. Christ puts the key of the treasure-chamber into our hand, and bids us take all that we want. If a man is admitted into the vault of a bank and told to help himself, and comes out with 1 cent, whose fault is it that he is poor?**

E. **Questions for prayer:** In Christ, we are made partakers of *every spiritual blessing*. This should lead us to worship and gratitude.

V. Slide12 **HE CHOSE US (4)** *elected us* (formerly applied to Israel alone)

A. We were **Planned** from the beginning by **the Father**. **Purchased** by **the Son**. **And Preserved** by **the Spirit**.

1. This is ***the bedrock of confidence*** for the believer.
2. **But what about those He didn't chose?** He's not trying to answer all of our questions. He's trying to "*whisper sweet somethings in your ear*" ... if you'll have *ears to hear*?

B. **Purpose** for this choosing? The goal of God's choosing is **not just salvation** but **transformation**, to make us **holy** & **blameless** in His sight, *through* the work of **Jesus**.

1. **Choosing** promotes and demands holiness. **Holiness is the revealing evidence** of being elected/chosen.
2. **God's choosing has a purpose:** that we might be *transformed into the image of Christ, displaying His holiness*.

C. **Questions for prayer:** Ask God to **stir you to pursue holiness**, knowing that God's purpose is to sanctify us through Jesus.

D. **If you were *chosen in Him before the foundation of the world* how will that change your view of your relationship with God today?** (no longer try to make Him like you?)

E. What does it look like in your life to be **holy** and **blameless** in Christ?

VI. Slide13 **HE ADOPTED US (5)** *predestined us* (predestined 5 x's who not what)

A. We were **predestined** for something - for **adoption**.

B. **According not to** (what we've done **or** what He saw we would do). **But according to the purpose of His will**. [this is the only explanation, *can we just leave it there?*]

1. The reason is found **in God and not you**. Period!

- C. God, in His grace, adopts us as His children through Jesus Christ. This is **not just** a legal change, **but** a **relational** one, bringing us into the family of God.
- D. A quote from a judge on a couple's **adoption day** of their son. *"From today on, he is **your son**. He may **disappoint** you, even **grieve** you **but** he is **your son**. **Everything you own one day will be his and he will bear your name**."* Then he looked to the clerk and gave this command. *"So order a change in **this child's birth certificate** and may it reflect that **these are the parents of this child**."*
- E. **In NT times** they usually didn't adopt babies, they waited till they were older so they could see **character**. **And** did you know, **God** doesn't adopt cute lil kids **but** adopts enemies.
- F. **Questions for prayer:** Meditate on this: through Jesus, you are adopted into God's family. Your **identity** is now rooted in Christ. You are *no longer orphans*, **but** children of the living God.

VII.Slide14a **HE THUS, RECEIVES OUR PRAISE (6)**

- A. The ultimate purpose of our salvation is **the praise of God's glorious grace**, which is **freely given to us** in the **Beloved** (Jesus Christ).
1. The response to God's grace should be a life of worship and praise.
- B. In Heb.10:10 we see **our standing/position** in (*we have been sanctified*/set apart)
In Heb.10:14 we see **our state/condition** in (*we are being sanctified*).
1. Here we've been learning about the first, **our standing/our position**.
- C. **To the praise of His glorious grace** (also in 12,14) – Wait, it's not all about me?
1. God saves sinners **not to solve their problems**, **but** to bring **glory to Himself**. (say again) **Slide14b** So, **God gets the glory ... you get the joy!**
- D. **Questions for prayer:** This passage calls us to **reflect** on the profound grace of God that has chosen us, predestined us for adoption, and transformed our identity through Jesus Christ. We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Him, **and** our lives should **reflect** a grateful response to the amazing love and grace of God.

1. What is *your grateful response* to Him tonight?

E. Keywords: adoption, blessing, predestined.