

Our Spiritual Blessings in Christ
Part 2 – Praise God for our future adoption
Ephesians 1:5,6,11

Introduction:

- A. The second spiritual blessing is adoption
 - 1. There is a past adoption – as soon as you receive Christ, you become a c_____ of God (Jn 1:12).
 - 2. There is a future adoption – see Rom 8:23
 - a. The Greek word that Paul uses in verse 5 literally means to be placed as a s_____
 - 1) NLT makes it a past adoption, where most other versions could be understood as either.
 - 2) Tindale translates it *predestined us to be heirs*
 - b. As soon as a person receives Christ, they are predestined to this adoption where they will receive an in_____
- B. The following questions can help us understand this blessing more fully.

How are we to apply the term, predestination?

- A. Verse 5 uses the term predestination (NLT – God decided in advance; KJV – foreordained)
 - 1. Literal meaning – *to set the boundary beforehand*
 - 2. Practical meaning – *to determine beforehand*
- B. Some scholars wrongly apply this term
 - 1. One error – In eternity past, God predestined some to be l_____ and some to be saved (but this is antibiblical – lostness is always viewed as the fault of man not the determination of God)
 - 2. Another error – In eternity past, God predestined s_____ for mankind (but while part of this is true, it is never stated in the Bible using the term predestination).
- C. How the term is used in the Bible
 - 1. Acts 4:28 – God predestined the s_____ of Christ
 - 2. Rom 8:29,20 – everyone whom God foreknew, He predestined to be conformed to the i_____ of His son.
 - 3. 1Cor 2:7 – God predestined the unveiling of the m_____ of God in the person of Christ (i.e. that salvation is through Jesus).
 - 4. Eph 1:11 – (we will save for later)
 - 5. Eph 1:5 – believers are predestined to a future adoption

What is the initial nature of our future adoption? (5)

- A. The Biblical difference between being a child of God and a son of God.
1. A child of God – emphasizes a r_____
 2. A son of God – emphasizes a l_____ status.
 - a. In Roman law, an adopted son had the same right as a natural born son to the i_____.
 - b. Biblical points
 - 1) Jesus is the only n_____ son of God (Jn 3:16 – His one and only Son).
 - 2) Believers (regardless of gender) are placed as s_____ through Jesus Christ (Eph 1:5)
 - 3) Rom 8:23 -To be placed as a son (adoption) is a future state where our b_____ will be redeemed (i.e. resurrected – see Rom 8:11), which will occur at Christ's c_____ (1Thess 5:23,24)
- B. What is the INITIAL nature of our future adoption – it is the r_____ of our future physical bodies to an immortal state.

What is the ongoing nature of our future adoption? (11)

- A. The term *predestine* is used in conjunction with obtaining an i_____
1. Compare two translations
 - a. NAS - *In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose.*
 - b. NIV - *In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him*
 2. The above underlined words translate a word that has to do with the casting of l_____ (this is a verb is only used once in the Greek N.T., but the noun form is used 11 times)
 - a. Six times the noun refers to a l_____ that was thrown (Matt 27:35; Mk 15:24; Lk 23:34; Jn 19:24; Acts 1:26).
 - b. Four times the noun is used to refer to an in_____ or something similar (Acts 8:21; 26:18; Col 1:12; 1Pet 5:3).
 - c. So the verb would either mean, to choose by lot or to obtain an inheritance.
 - 1) It cannot mean, to choose by lot, in Eph 1:11 - God does not play d_____ with our destiny
 - 2) It must mean, to obtain an inheritance, in Eph 1:11 – Rom 8:11 calls us fellow heirs with Christ in the context

B. What inheritance will we believers receive?

1. We will share in everything that God o_____ (what does God own? - e_____)
2. 1Pet 1:4 – is currently reserved for us in h_____
3. Matt 5:5 – we will inherit the e_____ (see Rev 21)
4. Matt 25:35 – we will inherit God’s k_____
5. Matt 19:29 – we will inherit eternal l_____ (in the ultimate sense of uninterrupted fellowship with God)
6. 1Cor 2:9 – God has not revealed all that He has in store for us who l_____ Him, but it will blow our minds

PRAISE GOD FOR THE CERTAINTY
OF OUR FUTURE ADOPTION!