

Predestination - Lesson Three

Chosen in Christ

Goal

To see how Paul treats the doctrine of election in his letter to the Ephesians, so that we may see how our whole salvation is “in Christ.”

Introduction

- What is the purpose of “awards season”? (Golden Globes, Academy Awards, Emmy Awards, CMAs etc.)

1. We have been elected in Christ

Ephesians 1:3

- Why can it be said that “in Christ” we truly have “every spiritual blessing”?

Ephesians 1:4-6

- What do the expressions “in him,” “through Jesus Christ,” and “in the One he loves” tell us about the relation of Christ and our predestination?

Psalm 51:5

- Think back to lesson one and the discussion about the teaching of original sin and total depravity. Why is it important for us to understand this teaching if we are to understand the gracious nature of God’s election?

Ephesians 1:4

- The Bible tells us we were chosen in Christ before the creation of the world, a fact also brought out in 2 Timothy 1:9: “[God] has saved us and called us to a holy life. . . . This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.” How does this reinforce the teaching that we are saved only by grace?
- When in time did God adopt us into his family?

1 Peter 1:20

- According to 1 Peter 1:20, what else besides our election happened before the creation of the world?

Ephesians 1:4

- What is all included in the phrase “holy and blameless”?

Ephesians 1:4,5

- When we discuss predestination, why should we always stress God's love?

Ephesians 1:5,6

- What interesting phenomenon takes place by our election? (two things)

Ephesians 1:11-14

- What further guarantee does God give to his elect?

2 Thessalonians 2:13

- Some wonder, "Am I saved by election, or am I saved by faith?" What light does 2 Thessalonians 2:13 shed on this?

Summary

In his letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul describes our election as being in Christ and as taking place in eternity. Before the world was created, God picked us out of the world's population to be followers of Jesus Christ and heirs of heaven. Holiness is needed for heaven. So God arranged through Christ to have us be "blameless in his sight." We are called to be new people! In love he adopted us as his sons through Holy Baptism. By joining us to his beloved Son, God demonstrated his grace and gave all a reason to praise him.

During the week

Review this lesson by reading *Predestination*, pages 25-33. Or, look ahead to the next lesson by reading pages 35-47.

You may order this book at Northwestern Publishing House

www.nph.net or calling 1-800-662-6022 Catalog Item Number: OL-150607 \$14.50

You can also read in the Lutheran Confessions: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article XI