



Ephesians 1:4b-6

## *Predestination in Christ*

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“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will– to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.” Ephesians 1:4b-6 NIV84

## We are *Predestined*

1. The subject of Predestination can be a controversial one in certain Christian circles, however it is a fundamental blessing for those *in Christ*. But what does it mean?

2. *προορίζω* - Translated "predestined". Compound word from *πρό* and *ὀρίζω*.

- *πρό* means "before"
- *ὀρίζω* means "determined"
- *προορίζω* - Predestined means to *determine before*. Spiros Zodhiates comments on this word defining it as "*marking out boundaries definitively*."
- The idea behind predestination, therefore, as it applies to *God predestining* those *in Christ*, is that God marks out the boundaries definitively for His children - and those boundaries are *in Christ*.
- God sets boundaries to safeguard His children, enabling them and keeping them within the confines of receiving favor and blessing.
- God makes His blessings unavoidable for those *in Christ*.
- This is a pre-work, meaning it happens before His children are placed *in Christ*. God sets boundaries for those who are adopted into His family, before any of those children enter into that family.

3. The significance of this clarification cannot be overstated. Predestination is not a violation of our free will or our ability to choose. God's predestination is boundary language for blessing.

- God puts *boundaries* on where He will bestow His blessings. *He Predestined beforehand those boundaries.*
- Those who are in Christ are recipients of those predestined blessings.
- Those who *by choice* remove themselves by rebellion (sin) from being *in Christ* cannot be blessed, for *those blessings are predetermined* for those *in Christ*.

## We are *Predestined* for *Adoption*

1. Adoption is a neat Greek term from a combination of two different Greek terms.

- *υἱός* - Son
- *τιθημι* - To set or to Place
- *Adoption*, therefore, means *to set sons in place*.

2. Paul incidentally expounds on the ramifications of being in Christ. As Jesus is the *Only Begotten Son*, those *in Christ* are also *viewed by God as His sons*.

3. This, again, highlights the *boundaries of predestination*. God definitively sets boundaries for those He chooses to

bles. *God only blesses Jesus, His Only Begotten Son and those who are in Him.*

## God *Delights* in *Blessing Jesus!*

1. God is Love and greatly desires to pour His blessings on those *in Christ!*
2. His blessings *in Christ* produce sons and daughters "in accordance with His pleasure and will."

## Grace! Grace! Grace!

1. The term we translate Grace is the Greek word *χάρις*.
  - Strong's Enhanced Lexicon states, "...of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting His Holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian Faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues."
  - Spiros Zodhiates says of this term, "Grace, particularly that which causes joy, pleasure, gratification, favor, acceptance, for a kindness granted or desired, a benefit, thanks, gratitude. A favor done without expectation of return; the absolutely free expression of the loving kindness of God to men finding its only motive in the bounty and benevolence of the Giver; unearned and unmerited favor."

2. For those *in Christ*, God lavishes the above definitions *freely* and *without limit!* WOW!!

## Grace is *Freely Given In Christ*

1. The concluding statement emphasizes emphatically that what God provides *in Christ* for His adopted sons and daughters is absolutely **FREE!**

2. God's predestined boundaries guards His extravagant free blessings. In one act, God both *limits* and *protects* His blessings *in Christ*.

- Limits - God will not cheapen His blessing of sonship by pouring favor on sin - which Jesus' died to eradicate. His favor is limited to *in Christ*.
- Guards - God protects his extravagant free gift of Grace. He will not lessen or "put a cap" on his favor. God designed endless bounty to placed in Jesus and will not lessen that blessing. He guards His endless bounty of Grace for His children.
- Christ's sacrificial death deserves endless bounty and those who receive Christ receive God's guaranteed endless Grace!