

# Predestined To Be Adopted

## Ephesians 1:5-6

We are involved in a verse by verse study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. The Ephesian church was like any other church. It was the first church Jesus addressed in the Revelation. It had a record of good works and a zeal for doing what is right, yet Jesus said he had one thing against them – they had lost their first love. Paul is writing some years before that indictment and it would appear that he already had that same concern.

Watchman Nee, that great pastor and biblical scholar and writer, outlined Ephesians in three words: Sit, Walk, Stand. The first three chapters emphasize our positional relationship with Christ, that is, what Christ has done for us, not what we do for him. We must learn to rest in the finished work of Christ before we can do a work for Christ. Then comes Walk, as Paul reminds them how to walk following Jesus, and finally Stand, how to stand firm against the enemy.

We have spent much time in building a foundation for what Paul will say in these first three chapters. We have spoken of the Mystery, the Sovereignty of God, and the Glory of God all conveyed in this epistle.

Now we are following the list of ten spiritual blessings Paul declares that we have since the foundation of the world in Christ. These are things done for us by God in heavenly realms. They are spiritual realities God has put into motions. They are:

### **Ten Spiritual Blessings - *"Election Is a Done Deal"***

**All Have Already Been Accomplished - past tense.**

- 1. God Elected-Chose us to be... - (vrs 4)**
- 2. God Predestined us to be... - (vrs 5 also 11-12)**
- 3. God Adopted us as his sons... - (vrs 5)**
- 4. God Accepted us in the Beloved One - (vrs 6)**
- 5. God Redeemed us - (vrs 7, 14)**
- 6. God Forgave us - (vrs 7)**
- 7. God's Grace Lavished on us – (vrs 7-8)**
- 8. God Revealed to us - (vrs 9-10)**
- 9. God's Inheritance is given to us - (vrs 11)**
- 10. God Sealed us – (vrs 13)**

We want you to note that these are not haphazardly placed, disconnected ideas. There is a domino effect here. One leads to the other and is intertwined. They weave together into a beautiful tapestry of what God has done for us already in Christ. These are not tenuous, but unassailable blessings in heavenly places.

We have already spoken of the dangers and benefits of the doctrine of election. This morning we move on to speak of three more blessings: Predested, Adopted, and Accepted.

In our scripture this morning I am going to show you two translations, the New International Version, and the NKJV.

***NIV – is a paraphrase, not a word by word exact translation.***

*5. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- 6. to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.*

***NKJV – is not a paraphrase but a word by word exact translation.***

*5 in love having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved (One).*

The reason I put these two so called translations side by side is to demonstrate the occasional weakness of the New International Version, which does not attempt to stay close to the original Greek text, but attempt to interpret the meaning rather than translate the words. That, my friends, is helpful at times, but more often is dangerous. To leave out what God intended for us to read is a serious matter.

***Here is our Outline for the coming weeks***

- 1. Elected before the creation to be holy and without blemish.*
- 2. Predestined to be adopted as sons. (Dec 10)*
- 3. Grace lavished on us to be accepted in the Beloved One. (Dec 17)*
- 4. Redeemed and forgiveness through the blood of Christ. (Dec 24)*
- 5. Bequeathed and sealed, thus guaranteeing inheritance. (Dec 31)*

We continue our study this morning with the consideration of three of the ten spiritual blessings in heavenly realms. They are tandem in Paul's presentation, thus cannot logically be separated, though each deserves to be explored in and of itself.

These three blessings are **Predestination, Adoption, and Acceptance in the Beloved One.**

**Consider with me this morning these three words:**

1. **Predestined in love to be adopted through Jesus**
2. **Adopted for the praise of his grace**
3. **Accepted in the Beloved one**

**Application:** I am chosen, adopted, accepted!

**1 John 3:1-3 NIV**

**(Behold) How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.**

**Closing Song:** *Family of God* – Gaither

# I. Predestined

We have already spent much time on election in which we covered to some extent the doctrine of predestination. But let us pause for a moment to reflect on the clarity of that first of these two blessings.

## 1. Consider the Word Predestined

**4309** *pro-orizo pro-or-id'-zo*

3724=**to mark out the boundaries or limits** (of any place or thing)

The word predestined is a compound word, two word pulled together to make one. The Greek is “proorizo.” I hyphenate it so you can see the two words. *Pro* is pre and *orizo* is our word for horizon. Literally it means God premarked the horizon, or the boundaries. He sets the boundaries, not just sees them.

Most of us seem quite all right to let God set the boundaries or predestine other things. God set the boundaries for the sea that it does not pass over, he sets the boundaries of light and darkness, he sets the boundaries of the stars in the sky, he knows the number and gives them names and we have no problem with that.

The Bible also says he determines the number of our days and already knows the day of our death as he knew and determined the day our birth. Psalm 139 goes even further to say that God knows (sets the bounds) of the very hairs on your head. He determines that, no you and you are OK with that. Then there is God’s predestination in our mother’s womb. God chose, without consulting us, how tall we would be, how much hair we would have, how smart we would be, how gifted we would be. He determined the color of our skin, our eyes, our complexion, our physical body-type, and even our sex without ever once consulting with us. Is that unfair? Is God unjust? No. We are OK with God determining those things. But if we start to imply that God determined our eternal destiny by his pre-design, his pre-thoughts, his will and his purpose we get real nervous.

But friend, God is not limited, nor has he ever limited himself to our choices. He chooses. He is in charge, not you. God elects and God predestines according to his plan and purpose. Your arms are too short to box with God. Give it up. Trust God’s choices.

(See our list of Scriptures on Setting the Boundaries)

## 2. Consider the Use of the Word “Predestined”

That is, for many people a scary word. It strikes fear into the heart of those who are addicted to “free will.” Yet, most of us do not have a problem with Sovereignty, election and predestination in other realms – only when it comes to our salvation.

The Bible uses the term in other places and that helps us understand it. In Acts it is used to refer to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the **determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God**, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Acts 4:28 For to do **whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before** to be done. [**proorizo**]

Many of us have the wrong idea about how Jesus came to die for our sins. We see Adam and Eve in Eden and think that their sin caught God off guard and left him stymied about what to do. Then in panic he decided to send his son to die as the Lamb of God, thus fulfilling the law of God and saving man. But that is not how it happened.

Nothing catches God off guard. Nothing surprises him. Nothing stumps him. Predestination declares that. Revelation 13:8 says,

“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

How is that possible? It is possible because of election and predestination. God, who sees and knows all things, also sees and knows the end from the beginning because he is the First and the Last, the Alpha and Omega, The Beginning and the Ending. He does not simply have foreknowledge by prognostication. He doesn't just perceive those who will believe on him. He did not spy out the future and discover who among us would chose him, and then he chose them. That would not be predestining anything. Predestination means he set the boundaries. He marks off who is to be saved. God did not foresee then choose. That would be you choosing, not God.

I love the way John Piper puts it in preaching on adoption and predestination and clarify how it was done he says,

“It is not to the glory of shrewd picking. ‘I chose a cute baby. I chose a healthy baby. I chose a smart baby.’ God chose to choose the weak,

broken, foolish, diseased, feeble-minded, failures, ugly, corrupt, distorted, defiled, worthless sinners. He chose the dregs to the glory of his grace, that no flesh should glory in his presence." It is to the glory of his grace.

God did not choose the best and the brightest. He chose nothing based on worthiness. He chose based on his own free will and choice, nothing else. He chose the worst to show how great is his grace and how powerful is his love to transform the worst of sinners or the best of sinners.

### **3. How Paul Used "Predestined" In Romans 8:29-30**

Let us look briefly at the Scriptures regarding predestination. Paul used the term in Romans 8 and in Ephesians 1.

#### **Romans 8:29-30**

29. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the likeness of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

#### **A. It is not about conversion:**

**In Romans eight** he is very specific about the reason we are predestined and the purpose for which we were chosen. **It is never used by Paul to refer to simply being predestined to being saved.** In our western mindset we often envision and articulate salvation as being from something, (i.e.) saved from hell or damnation specifically. But the biblical concept is to be saved from so that we can be saved to something.

Being saved for Paul was not just a decision to follow Christ. It was a born again experience of a life transformation, and a complete turn around in one's direction. In fact, that is what repentance implies, a complete about face to go in the opposite direction. Before being saved, born again, we were going away from Christ, in fact, running away from Christ. Once saved, we turn to Christ and begin a journey in his direction -- we follow Christ.

#### **B. It Is About Process and End Result:**

**In Paul's mind we are predestined to something and that is not primarily or exclusively heaven**, but we are predestined to be like Jesus. That is our calling. That is God's plan and purpose for us. It is not God's plan just to get us to heaven. So, in your dorm room or small group and Bible study discussions when you say, "Do you believe in predestination?" The answer better be, Yes, but with a clear understanding that it is not a doctrine about conversion. It is about what we are called to, not that we are called.

## **So, what are we called to in this predestined plan of God?**

We are called to be like Jesus. Look with me at Romans 8: 29-30, the only other “predestination” passage.

*Romans 8:29 For whom he did **foreknow**, he also did **predestinate** to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did **predestinate**, them he also **called**: and whom he called, them he also **justified**: and whom he justified, them he also **glorified**.*

### **C. It Is About Heavenly Realities:**

**The primary purpose of predestination according to verse 29 is to be conformed to the image of his Son.** What does that mean? It means we are predestined by God to become like Jesus. Verse 30 leads us to **the complete action of predestination**. Whom God predestines he also calls, justifies, and glorifies. But Paul puts it into the past tense, a done deal, a deed already accomplished in Christ. Whoever is predestined, is also **called**, and **justified**, and **glorified** before the throne of God and in the mind of God.

If you are seated here as a born again Christian than this is true of you. God has predestined you, called you, justified you, and glorified you already in his provision and mind. It is a done deal. It is in heavenly realms where God dwells. It is the way God sees things. It is sealed in heaven.

## **4. How Paul Used “Predestined” In Ephesians One:**

**Ephesians 1:5** Having **predestinated** us to be adopted through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

**Ephesians 1:11** In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated** according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will:

It is used the same way Paul used it in Romans. It is God’s reality. That is why in Chapter two Paul can say that we are “**seated with Christ in heavenly places**.” It is a matter eternally settled in the mind of God. It is finished in Christ. You are right now **seated with Jesus in heavenly places**. You are right now **heirs of God** and **joint heirs** with Christ. It does not yet appear that this is a completed action, does it? You don’t always feel called, justified, and especially glorified. But it is done. That is why Jude can say,

*“To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy--to the only God our*

*Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.” (Jude 1:24-25)*

We are predestined, predetermined by God to be like Jesus. That is why Paul can say in Philippians 1:6

*“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*

Friend, God is at work in you if you have receive Christ as your Savior. He is at work in you *“both to will and do his good pleasure.”* He delights to accomplish your transformation.

## **2. Adopted**

That brings us back to this topic of **Adoption**. Adoption is a God-action, in the past in which he transacted a legal agreement grafting us into his family as his children, his sons and daughters. Adoption and “heirship” can hardly be separated in the mind of Paul. It also involves **redemption** of a slave as Paul so aptly describes in Romans 8 and Galatians 4. It also involves the consequence of **an inheritance**. As adoption it is required that their be a paper trail, a legal document and proof that entitles you to be an heir. God **sealed the deal** with the Holy Spirit, thus guaranteeing the inheritance.

**5206 huio-thesia hwee-oth-es-ee'-ah**

From *huis* = "son," and *tithemi* = "to put or place"

Literally **huios**=sons, **thesia**= placement (tithemi)

We are predestined always to a purpose, not just a position. In other words, we are predestined to something that is to be accomplished. Predestination is God’s determined will decided in the past, and the adoption is the object of that determined will.

Adoption is a wonderful concept. It is strictly Pauline theology, and does not appear in any other Gospel or Epistle. Paul used the concept repeatedly in his letters to the churches. There are three passages that teach us about our adoption into Christ: **Romans 8:15-29, Galatians 4:1-5, Ephesians 1:4-14**

## Roman Law

Paul was using a Roman concept extrapolated from Roman law. Paul was a Jew, but he was also a legal citizen of Rome by his birthright. He did not buy his citizenship as so many did to become Roman citizens. It was awarded to him by birth into a family, the husband of which was a Roman citizen, thus he became once and forever a Roman citizen. This is a tremendous privilege and spared Paul's life on more than one occasion. Roman citizens had rights that other human beings did not have.

## **Adoption in Rome**

In Roman law, the power to give children in adoption was one of the recognized powers of the pater familias. The adopted boy would usually be the oldest, the one with proved health and abilities. Adoption was an **expensive agreement** for the childless family and quality had to be ensured. Adoption was agreed between families by the mother giving the person they wanted to adopt (for the most part) equal status, often political allies and/or with blood connections. A Plebeian adopted by a Patrician would become a patrician, and vice versa; however, at least in Republican times, this required the consent of the Senate (famously in the case of Publius Clodius Pulcher. **A sum of money was exchanged between the parties** (redemption) and the **boy assumed the adoptive father's name**, plus a cognomen that indicated his original family. Adoption was not secretive or considered shameful, nor was the adopted boy expected to cut ties to his original family. Like a marriage contract, adoption was a way to reinforce inter-family ties and political alliances. The adopted child was often in a privileged situation, enjoying both original and adoptive family connections. Almost every politically famous Roman family used it.

**Probably the most famous adopted man in Republican times was Augustus Caesar.** Born as Gaius Octavius, he was **adopted by his great-uncle Julius Caesar** and acquired the name of **Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus** (hence his common name of Octavian). As in the case of Clodius, one could be adopted by a man younger than oneself; his sister Clodia is also the one known example of a **Roman woman being adopted.**

Although not technically adoption, it was common for a dying man to leave guardianship of his children to another man, thus granting him the power of a paterfamilias over what were now effectively his foster children.

## **Let me illustrate adoption with the highlights of the story of Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens**

(See story highlights)

### 3. Accepted - Apprehended

Highly Favored – Luke 1:28

*“in whom he has highly favored us in the One [agapao] he loves.”*

**Luke 1:28** “Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.”

Redemption – payment was made. **(ie) Deep magic of Narnia.**

Seal was given – sealed by Holy Spirit, stamp hearts crying Abba, Father.

Inheritance was promised – until the redemption of the purchased possession.

#### Deep Magic

Magic in Narnia is really just the law of God. “Lewis uses magic as a synonym for laws that God has written into the universe.” **We are told of deep magic and deeper magic in Narnia.** Deep magic makes it possible for Aslan to die in Edmund’s place and satisfy its requirements. “And now, who has won? Fool, did you think that by all this you would save the human traitor? Now I will kill you instead of him as our pact was and so the Deep Magic will be appeased.” But *Deeper* Magic is something the Witch knows nothing about. Deeper magic brings Aslan back from the dead.

#### As Aslan tells it:

*Though the Witch knew the Deep Magic, there is a magic deeper still which she did not know. Her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, into the stillness and the darkness before Time dawned, she would have read there a different incantation. She would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor’s stead, the Table would crack and Death itself would start working backward.*



The Witch is a created being, just as Satan is. Satan can read the word of God, but he will never truly understand it. Deep Magic in Narnia is the law written on tablets of stone, but Deeper Magic is the law written on tablets of human hearts (2 Cor. 3:3). The letter of the law and the spirit of the law is what is contrasted here with the two “deep magics.”

John 1:12

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

### **I John 3:1-3 KJV**

1 Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knows us not, because it knew him not. 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that has this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure.

1 John 3:1 NIV

1. How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Philippians 3:12 KJV

If that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended."  
12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

**Application:** I am predestined to be adopted and accepted!  
**Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called the children of God. I Jn 3:1**

**Closing Song:** *Family of God* – Gaither

# Family of God

Words and Music by William J. Gaither, © 1970

## Chorus

I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,  
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His Blood!  
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,  
For I'm part of the family,  
The Family of God

You will notice we say "brother and sister" 'round here,  
It's because we're a family and these are so near;  
When one has a heartache, we all share the tears,  
And rejoice in each victory in this family so dear.

From the door of an orphanage to the house of the King,  
No longer an outcast, a new song I sing;  
From rags unto riches, from the weak to the strong,  
I'm not worthy to be here, but PRAISE GOD! I belong!

## Chorus

I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,  
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His Blood!  
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,  
For I'm part of the family,  
The Family of God

## **Predestined Boundaries: Set the Bounds**

**The stars, sea, nations, hairs on head, body parts numbered seen, fashioned, The number of our days, and the actions of men.**

Psalms 139:16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and **in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.**

Job 14:5 Seeing his **days are determined**, the number of his months *are* with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;

Psalms 37:18 The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.

Psalms 90:10 The days of our years *are* threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength *they be* fourscore years, yet *is* their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Psalms 89:9 **Thou rulest the raging of the sea**: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.

Psalms 104:9 Thou hast **set a bound that they may not pass over**; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

Psalms 148:6 He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a **decree which shall not pass**. (Waters above the heavens)

Job 28:25 To make the weight for the winds; and he **weigheth the waters by measure**.

Job 38:4 Where wast thou when I laid the **foundations of the earth**? declare, if thou hast understanding. 5 Who hath laid the **measures thereof**, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

Psalms 147:4 He telleth the number of the **stars**; he calleth them all by *their* names.

Matthew 10:30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Luke 12:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the **determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God**, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Acts 4:28 For to do **whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before** to be done. [**proorizo**]

Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which **God ordained** [**proorizo**] <4309> before the world unto our glory:

# Oliver Twist: Charles Dickens

A Tale of Two Cities, A Christmas Carol, Great Expectations, David Copperfield

## Plot Overview

Oliver Twist is born in a workhouse in 1830s England. His mother, whose name no one knows, is found on the street and dies just after Oliver's birth. Oliver spends the first nine years of his life in a badly run home for young orphans and then is transferred to a workhouse for adults. After the other boys bully Oliver into asking for more gruel at the end of a meal, Mr. Bumble, the parish beadle, offers five pounds to anyone who will take the boy away from the workhouse. Oliver narrowly escapes being apprenticed to a brutish chimney sweep and is eventually apprenticed to a local undertaker, Mr. Sowerberry. When the undertaker's other apprentice, Noah Claypole, makes disparaging comments about Oliver's mother, Oliver attacks him and incurs the Sowerberrys' wrath. Desperate, Oliver runs away at dawn and travels toward London.

Outside London, Oliver, starved and exhausted, meets Jack Dawkins, a boy his own age. Jack offers him shelter in the London house of his benefactor, Fagin. It turns out that Fagin is a career criminal who trains orphan boys to pick pockets for him. After a few days of training, Oliver is sent on a pickpocketing mission with two other boys. When he sees them swipe a handkerchief from an elderly gentleman, Oliver is horrified and runs off. He is caught but narrowly escapes being convicted of the theft. Mr. Brownlow, the man whose handkerchief was stolen, takes the feverish Oliver to his home and nurses him back to health. Mr. Brownlow is struck by Oliver's resemblance to a portrait of a young woman that hangs in his house. Oliver thrives in Mr. Brownlow's home, but two young adults in Fagin's gang, Bill Sikes and his lover Nancy, capture Oliver and return him to Fagin.

Fagin sends Oliver to assist Sikes in a burglary. Oliver is shot by a servant of the house and, after Sikes escapes, is taken in by the women who live there, Mrs. Maylie and her beautiful adopted niece Rose. They grow fond of Oliver, and he spends an idyllic summer with them in the countryside. But Fagin and a mysterious man named Monks are set on recapturing Oliver. Meanwhile, it is revealed that Oliver's mother left behind a gold locket when she died. Monks obtains and destroys that locket. When the Maylies come to London, Nancy meets secretly with Rose and informs her of Fagin's designs, but a member of Fagin's gang overhears the conversation. When word of Nancy's disclosure reaches Sikes, he brutally murders Nancy and flees London. Pursued by his guilty conscience and an angry mob, he inadvertently hangs himself while trying to escape.

Mr. Brownlow, with whom the Maylies have reunited Oliver, confronts Monks and wrings the truth about Oliver's parentage from him. It is revealed that Monks is Oliver's half brother. Their father, Mr. Leeford, was unhappily married to a wealthy woman and had an affair with Oliver's mother, Agnes Fleming. Monks has been pursuing Oliver all along in the hopes of ensuring that his half-brother is deprived of his share of the family inheritance. Mr. Brownlow forces Monks to sign over Oliver's share to Oliver. Moreover, it is discovered that Rose is Agnes's younger sister, hence Oliver's aunt. Fagin is hung for his crimes. Finally, Mr. Brownlow adopts Oliver, and they and the Maylies retire to a blissful existence in the countryside.

# Adoption – John Piper

When did this predestination to adoption happen? Answer is in verse four. Before the creation of the world. God did not create man only to have him though sin orphaned himself into sin. Now what will I do? Now I will think up a way to adopt them back. Nothing took God off guard. There was not plan Bs. That is not the kind of God we worship.

Implications: Our adoption does not rest on our fitness, worth or distinctives, that God recognized, liked and then decided to adopt us. It is not fragile tenuous uncertain, but firm, sure, and unshakable as is eternal purpose of God.

We had to be died for in order for this to happen. Through him we have redemption through his blood. He looked upon us in our sin, then he looked upon his crucified lamb of God (slain from the foundation of the world.) and because of that our sin was covered. The wrath of God is removed.

## Reason:

It is for the glory of his grace. Rebels, unworthy, ugly, distorted, corrupt, diseased unattractive children into his family so that the praise might go to the glory of his grace.

## Not to the glory of shrewd picking.

I chose a cute baby. I chose a healthy baby. I chose a smart baby. God chose to choose the weak, broken, foolish, diseased, feebleminded, failures, ugly, corrupt, distorted, defiled, worthless sinners. He chose the dregs to the glory of his grace that no flesh should glory in his presence.

We should be blown away that he chose you and me.

(I Corinthians 1:26) 26. Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, 29. so that no one may boast before him.