

SUBJECT: GOD HAS PREDESTINATED US
TEXT: EPHESIANS 1:3 – 6

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."

INTRODUCTION - In previous weeks, we saw that there is a two-fold blessing in Ephesians 1:3. It is that: 1) We bless God, and 2) God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings. The first spiritual blessing listed in the long list of blessings found in Ephesians 1:3 – 13 and 2:1 – 13 is that, "He hath chosen us." From our study, we saw that God first chose Christ, and then, He "chose us in Christ." Having chosen us, we are also predestined by God.

GOD HAS PREDESTINATED US - Predestined means: To mark out; to determine beforehand; a fixing or settling in advance.

In the word "predestined" there is a prefix and a suffix.

The prefix: "Pre"

Pre means: Before. There are many words that begin with this prefix, e.g., preschool, preliminary, preclude, precede, pre-judge, pre-emerge, etc.

The suffix: "Destined"

Destined means: Destiny or destination; an appointed end; to direct or set apart for a specific purpose and end.

This predestination of God was done, according to Ephesians 1:4, "Before the foundation of the world." In other words before the earth was made and before time had begun (*this is the "PRE – Prefix*), God had determined our destiny (*this is the "DESTINED – Suffix*).

2 EXAMPLES:

The Old Testament Prophet, Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1:4, 5. Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

The New Testament Prophet, John the Baptist

Luke 1:13 – 17. But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost,

even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Just as God chose and predestined Jeremiah and John the Baptist, so He has done the same with all of His saints. (*"Saints" meaning sanctified, set-apart ones.*)

WHY DID GOD PREDESTINATE US

That we would be adopted as His sons/His church (Ephesians 1:5)

That He might bring us to Himself

Because it is the good please of His will

That for ages we will praise His glory (Ephesians 1:6)

That we might be acceptable to Him by having been accepted in the Beloved.

QUESTION HOW IS IT THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED SUCH BLESSINGS

ANSWER: BY THE WILL OF GOD

"The will of God" is the determination of the mind of God to do anything He desires; with whoever; and however he wishes; and whenever He wants. God's will is based on His perfect wisdom and knowledge. His will is carried out by His power and according to His sovereign right as God – Creator, Sustainer and Master of All. God's will is influenced by nothing outside of Himself.

The will of God is revealed in many scriptures. But, we will only look at one passage:

Isaiah 46:9 – 11. ⁹Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: ¹¹Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

GOD'S WILL IS:

- Good and pleasurable: To Him (Ephesians 1:5)
- Good and pleasurable: To those who submit to His will (Romans 12:2)

THE WILL OF GOD: MENTIONED SIX TIMES IN EPHESIANS:

- Paul, an apostle by the will of God (Ephesians 1:1)
- We are blessed, chosen and predestined by the will of God (Eph 1:5)
- The "mystery of His will (Ephesians 1:9)
- God works all things according to the "counsel of His will" (Ephesians 1:11)
- "Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Ephesians 5:17)
- We are to do the will of God from the heart (Ephesians 6:6)

©2012 "God's Word, Alive!"

Permission is granted for non-commercial (free) distribution provided this notice appears.

"God's Word, Alive!" P.O. Box 34215; Omaha, NE 68134 www.Godswordalive.org