

# All-Ages Adult Life Group Expositional Study

## Ephesians Ch. 1:4-6

### To His Glory and Our Good (Part 2)

Class Reference: **Knowing the Bible Series**  
[Week 1: Overview: The Church in God's Plan](#)

June 22, 2025

Version 2

Prepared by Paul Szydowski

# Lesson Schedule (First 7 Lessons)

Teacher	Date	Lesson #	Lesson Text	John MacArthur Commentary Chapter/ Title	James Boice	RC Sproul	KTB
Paul	June 15	#1A	1:1-3	1. The Salutation (1:1-2)	Ch. 1 1:1-2 Ch. 2 1:3	Ch.1 1:1-2	Week 1: Overview
Paul	June 22	#1B	1:4-6	2. The Body Formed in Eternity Past (1:3-6)	Ch. 3 1:4-6	Ch. 2 1:3-6	
Rob	June 29	#2A	1:7-10	3. Redemption Through His Blood (1:7-10)	Ch. 4 1:7-10	Ch. 3 1:7-12	Week 2: 1:1-14
Rob	July 6	#2B	1:11-14	4. Divine Inheritance Guaranteed (1:11-14)	Ch. 5 1:11-14	Ch. 4 1:13-23	
Scott	July 13	#3	1:15-23	5a. Our Resources in Christ (1:15-17)	Ch. 6 1:15-19		Week 3: 1:15-23
				5b. Our Resources in Christ (1:18-23)	Ch. 7 1:19-23		
Paul	July 20	#4	2:1-7	6a. Coming Alive in Christ (2:1-7)	Ch. 8 2:1-3 Ch. 9 2:4-5 Ch. 10 2:4-7	Ch. 5 2:1-10	Week 4: 2:1-10
Mike	July 27	#5	2:8-10	6b. Coming Alive in Christ (2:8-10)	Ch. 11 2:8-9 Ch. 12 2:10		

# ESV Commentary Outline (This Week: Ephesians 1:1-3)

## I. Introductory Address and Greeting ([1:1-2](#))

- A. Author ([1:1a](#))
- B. Recipients ([1:1b](#))
- C. Greetings ([1:2](#))

## II. Praise God for His Blessings in Christ ([1:3-14](#))

- A. He Chose Us ([1:3-6](#))
- B. He Redeems Us ([1:7-10](#))
- C. He Gives Us an Inheritance ([1:11-12](#))
- D. He Seals Us with His Spirit ([1:13-14](#))

## III. Thanksgiving and Prayer ([1:15-23](#))

- A. Paul's Thanksgiving for Their Faith and Love ([1:15-16a](#))
- B. Paul's Prayer ([1:16b-23](#))
  - 1. That God Will Give Them the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation ([1:16b-17](#))
  - 2. That They Will Know God's Great Grace ([1:18-23](#))
    - a. The Hope of His Calling ([1:18a](#))
    - b. The Riches of His Glorious Inheritance ([1:18b](#))
    - c. The Immeasurable Greatness of His Power ([1:19-23](#))

v. 6-12 can also be divided into three sections, each of which focuses on a different Person of the Trinity.

- Verses 3-6a center on the Father,
  - verses 6b-12 center on the Son,
  - and verses 13-14 center on the Holy Spirit.
- Paul takes us to the very throne room of the Godhead to show the greatness and the vastness of the blessings and treasures that belong to those who are in Jesus Christ.

— John MacArthur

# JM Outline (This week: Ephesians 1:1-3)

## The Salutation (1:1-2)

THE DUAL SOURCE OF AUTHORITY (1:1A)

THE DUAL DESIGNATION OF BELIEVERS (1:1B)

THE DUAL BLESSINGS OF BELIEVERS (1:2A)

THE DUAL SOURCE OF BLESSING (1:2B)

## The Body Formed in Eternity Past (1:3-6A)

THE ASPECTS OF BLESSING (1:3):

THE BLESSED ONE—GOD (1:3)

THE BLESSER—GOD (1:3)

THE BLESSED ONES—BELIEVERS (1:3)

THE BLESSINGS—EVERYTHING SPIRITUAL (1:3)

THE LOCATION OF BLESSING—THE HEAVENLY PLACES (1:3)

THE BLESSING AGENT—JESUS CHRIST (1:3)

THE ELEMENTS OF THE ETERNAL FORMING OF THE BODY (1:4-6A):

THE METHOD—ELECTION (1:4)

THE OBJECT—THE ELECT (1:4)

THE TIME—ETERNITY PAST (1:4)

THE PURPOSE—HOLINESS (1:4)

THE MOTIVE—LOVE (1:4)

THE RESULT—SONSHIP (1:5)

THE GOAL—GLORY (1:6)

The background of the slide is a photograph of the ruins of the Temple of Apollo in Ephesus, Turkey. The image shows a long, straight stone-paved street lined with tall, fluted columns. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The ruins are surrounded by lush green trees and vegetation. The overall atmosphere is one of historical significance and tranquility.

# 6 Short Slides About Ephesians

# Why Study Ephesians?

- It has been called the “**Queen of the Epistles**” or the “**Crown of Paul’s Theology**”
- Rich in:
  - **Trinitarian theology**
  - **ecclesiology**
  - and **soteriology**
- Offers a **heavenly perspective** on earthly living—“every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places” (Eph. 1:3)

**QUESTION: What are these?**

# Authorship and Date

- **Author:** The Apostle **Paul** is traditionally accepted as the author (see Eph. 1:1)
- **Date:** Likely written around **A.D. 60–62**, during Paul's first Roman imprisonment (cf. Eph. 3:1; 4:1; 6:20)
- **Location of Writing:** Probably from **Rome**

# Audience

- Written to the **church in Ephesus**, a major city in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), though some early manuscripts omit “in Ephesus,” suggesting it may have been a **circular letter** for multiple churches in the region.
- The recipients were mostly **Gentile believers**, as indicated in Eph. 2:11–13.

# Structure

- **Epistle (Letter):** Highly theological and devotional in tone.
- **Two-Part Structure:**
  - **Chapters 1–3:** Doctrine – what God has done for believers (our position *in Christ*).
  - **Chapters 4–6:** Duty – how believers should live in light of this truth (our practice *through Christ*).

# Major Themes

- **Union with Christ** – “In Christ” or “in Him” appears over 25 times.
- **Spiritual Blessings** – Especially highlighted in Eph. 1:3–14.
- **Salvation by Grace through Faith** – Eph. 2:8–9 is a central passage.
- **The Mystery of the Church** – Jew and Gentile united in one body (Eph. 2:11–22; 3:6).
- **The Christian Life** – Unity, holiness, marriage, family, spiritual warfare.
- **The Cosmic Scope of Christ’s Lordship** – Christ exalted over all (Eph. 1:20–23).

# Some Practical Applications

- **Unity in the Church** – Eph. 4 emphasizes the unity of the Spirit.
- **Christian Identity** – You are chosen, adopted, redeemed, sealed (Eph. 1).
- **Spiritual Warfare** – Put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10–20).
- **Ethics of Grace** – Believers live out grace in speech, relationships, work, and marriage.

# Preparation for Hearing the Following Scriptures

- Election and predestination is often challenging and emotional, and it's okay to wrestle with it **by prayer, scripture reading, and study.**
- This topic reveals the depth of God's grace and the certainty of His purposes.
- Scripture teaches God is sovereign over all.
- God gave us books like John, Romans, and Ephesians to help us understand these topics. We must not steer away from these topics as they form a part of scripture and God's grace.
- We may not fully understand how these truths fit, but we can trust the God who reveals them.
- Our goal is not to debate mysteries, but to see the glory of God's grace in saving sinners.
- Everyone who comes to Christ is freely welcomed (John 6:37).
- If a person is truly seeking after Christ, it's evidence that God is at work in them.
- Let this truth lead us to humility, worship, and assurance, not fear or pride.

# Scripture Can “Preach” Itself

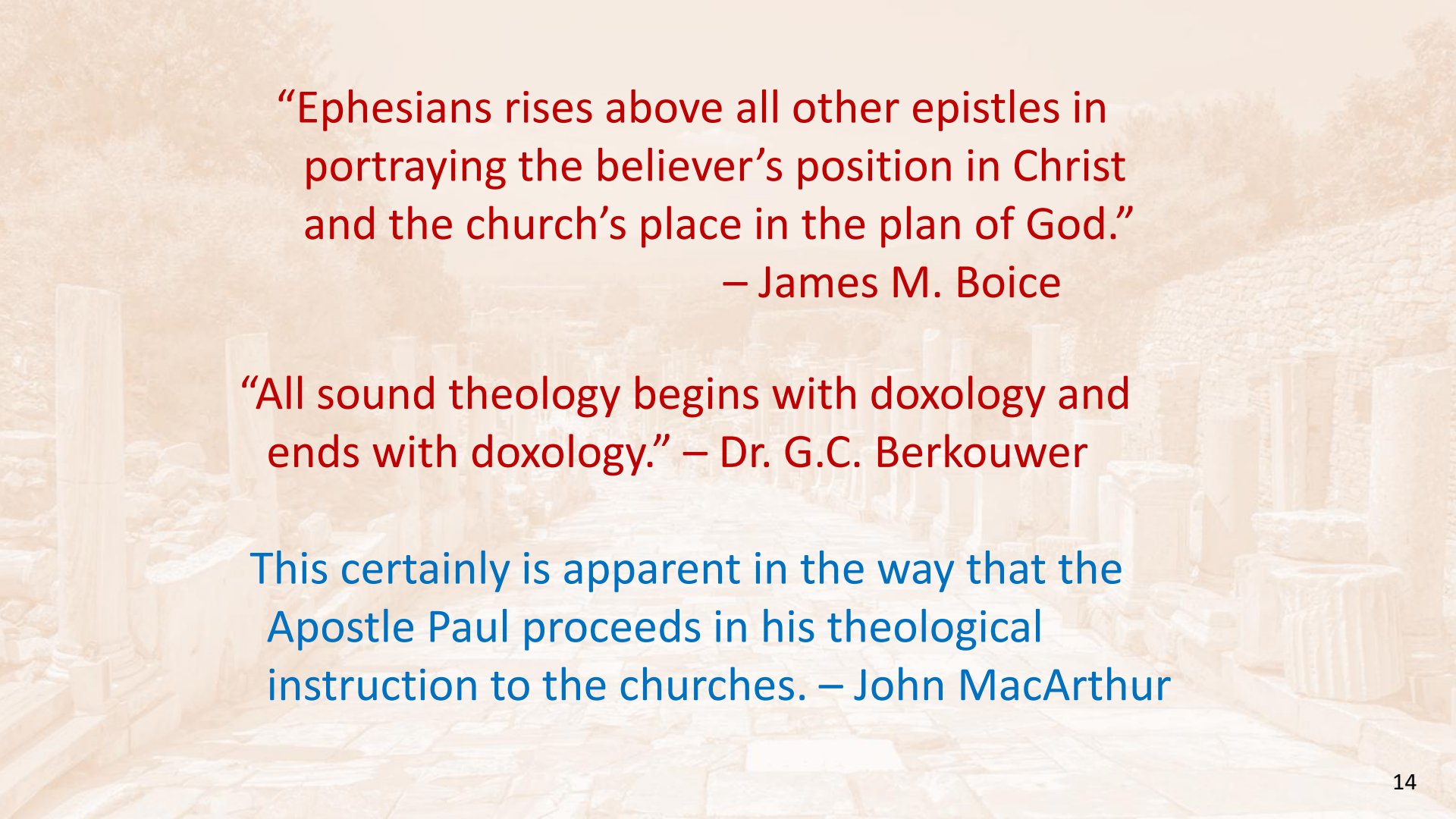
Go to minutes 4:33 to 5:33



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hwm-ZW8qUUM&list=PPSV&t=273s>

OR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hwm-ZW8qUUM&t=273s>



“Ephesians rises above all other epistles in portraying the believer’s position in Christ and the church’s place in the plan of God.”

– James M. Boice

“All sound theology begins with doxology and ends with doxology.” – Dr. G.C. Berkouwer

This certainly is apparent in the way that the Apostle Paul proceeds in his theological instruction to the churches. – John MacArthur

This proverb is not from scripture, but...  
"How do you eat an elephant?  
Answer: One bite at a time,"

The Bible often highlights the importance of continued effort and faithfulness over time, which can be seen as taking "one bite at a time" in the journey of faith or discipleship.

Reading and studying the Bible consistently allows one to "digest" its deep and rich content over time.

### Important Verses

1 Corinthians 2:12–14;  
Ephesians 1:17–18; 2  
Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy  
3:16–17; Acts 17:11

## Last Week's Verses Ephesians 1:1-3

### Greeting

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:  
<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Spiritual Blessings in Christ

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has  
blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

## Today's Verses Ephesians 1:4-6

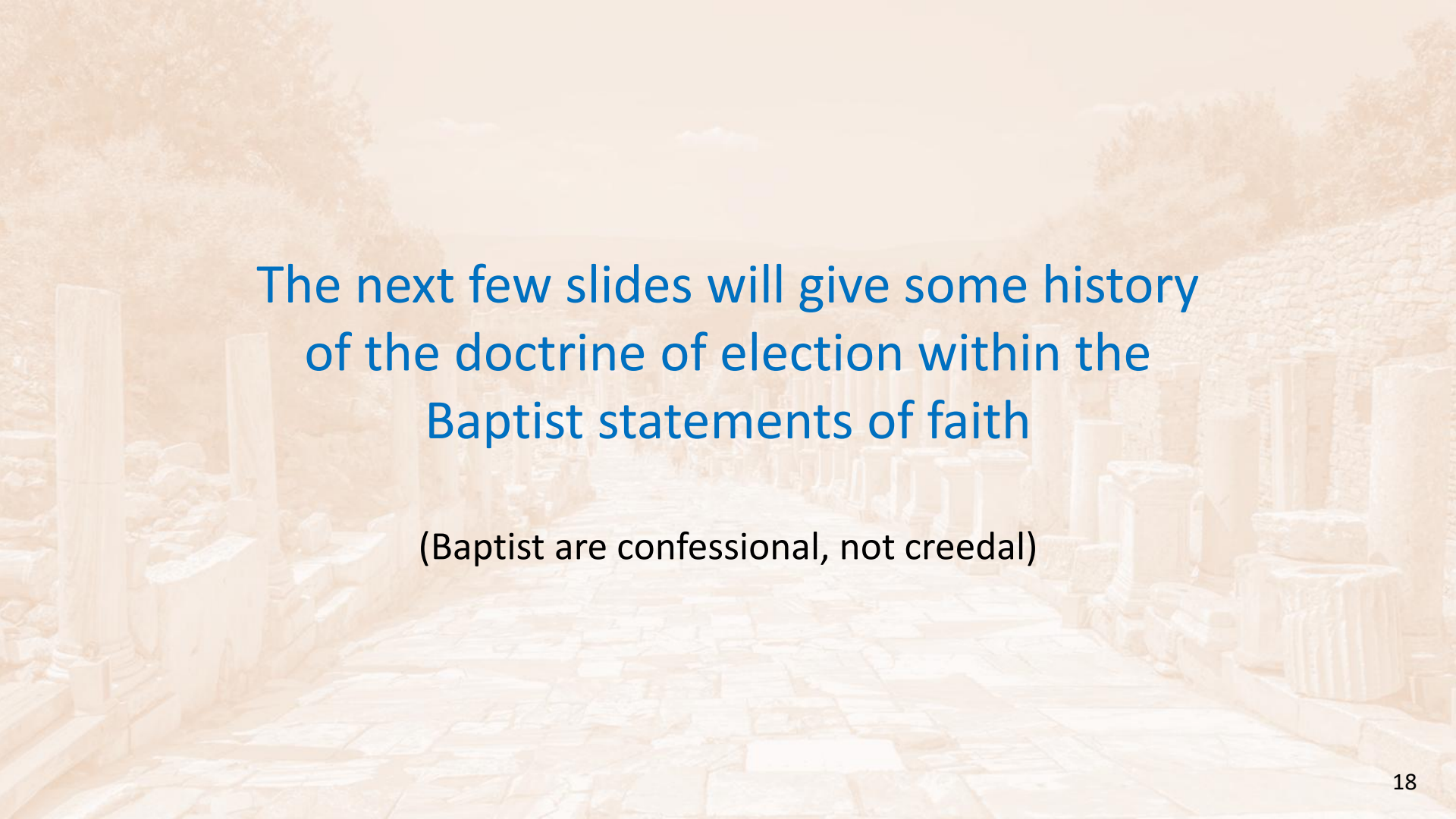
**READER #1:**  
Ephesians 1:4-5

<sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

<sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

**READER #2:**  
Ephesians 1:6

<sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

The background of the slide is a faded, sepia-toned photograph of an ancient stone path. The path is made of large, irregular stone tiles and leads from the foreground into the distance, flanked by ruins of ancient buildings with columns and walls. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is historical and contemplative.

The next few slides will give some history  
of the doctrine of election within the  
Baptist statements of faith

(Baptist are confessional, not creedal)

# Baptist Confession of Faith 1689

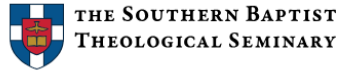
- Those whom God hath predestinated unto life, He is pleased in His appointed, and accepted time, effectually to call,<sup>1</sup>
- by His Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ;<sup>2</sup>
- enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God;<sup>3</sup>
- taking away their heart of stone, and giving to them a heart of flesh;<sup>4</sup>
- renewing their wills, and by His almighty power determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ;<sup>5</sup>
- yet so as they come most freely, being made willing by His grace.<sup>6</sup>

# The New Hampshire Confession of Faith 1833

- Of the Freeness of Salvation We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel (33); that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith (34); and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel (35); which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation (36).
- Of God's Purpose of Grace We believe that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners (46);
  - that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end (47);
  - that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable (48);
  - that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy (49);
  - that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree (50); that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel (51);
  - that it is the foundation of Christian assurance (52);
  - and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence (53).

# The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

## Abstract of Principles 1858



### IV. Providence

God from eternity, decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet so as not in any wise to be the author or approver of sin nor to destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures.

### V. Election

Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life-not because of foreseen merit in them, but of His mere mercy in Christ-in consequence of which choice they are called, justified and glorified.

# Baptist Faith and Message

## 1925 Article VIII – God's Purpose of Grace

*"Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners... It is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness... It excludes boasting and promotes humility."*

## 1963 Article V – God's Purpose of Grace

*"Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners..."*

– Paul S Note: the "order of salvation", sometimes called the *ordo salutis*

## 2000 Article V – God's Purpose of Grace

*"Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness..."*

# The Work of Christ is to the Glory of the Father

Jesus explicitly connects His saving work on the cross to the **glory of the Father** in several key passages. **IMPORTANT POINT!**

## ❖ John 12:27–28

<sup>27</sup> “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

## ❖ John 17:1–4

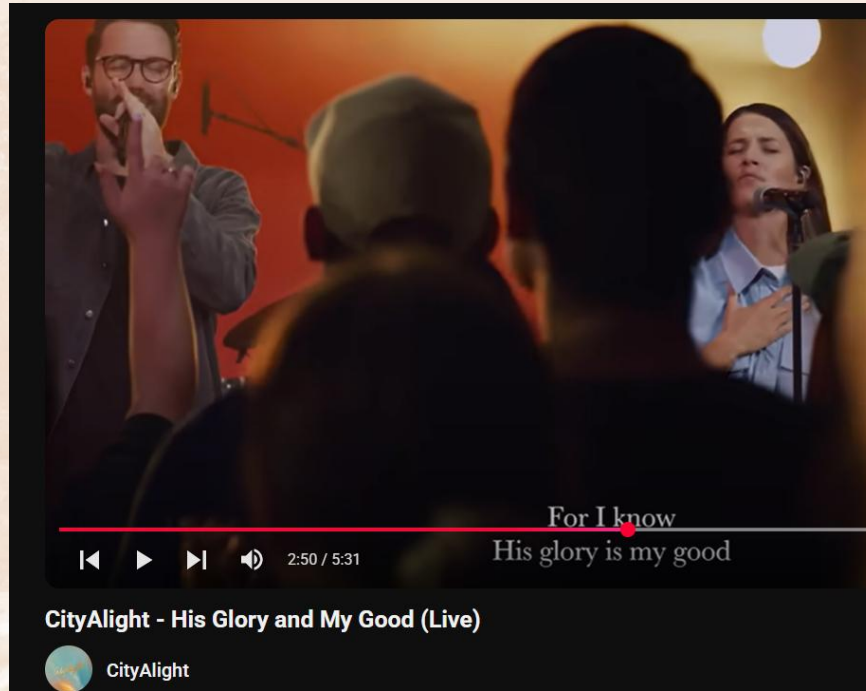
<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

## ❖ John 13:31–32

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.

# CityAlight – His Glory and My Good (Live)

This song highlights our salvation is for His Glory and we are blessed by Him (through Jesus His Son)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5nUTO4m9oA&list=PPSV&t=0s>

OR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5nUTO4m9oA>

# The Body Formed in Eternity Past (1:3-6A): THE ASPECTS OF BLESSING (1:3): GOD, BELIEVERS, SPIRITUAL, HEAVENLY, JESUS CHRIST (1:3) (CONTINUED)

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

- V.3 is a doxology (praise) for what God has done. (Remember: Doxology → Theology/Doctrine → Doxology)
- This opening section (vv.3-14) gives reasons why believers should praise the triune God for spiritual blessing they receive. These blessings are the result of spiritual union with Christ (vv. 3-7, 9, 11-13).
- **QUESTION:** What blessings do you see in vv. 3-6?

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Spiritual Blessings in Christ

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he had foreordained in Christ Jesus, before the world began, that we should bring to the praise of his glorious grace. <sup>11</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the purpose of his will, who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

# Next two Weeks (vv. 7-14)

## The Body Formed in Eternity Past (1:3-6A): THE ASPECTS OF BLESSING (1:3): GOD, BELIEVERS, SPIRITUAL, HEAVENLY, JESUS CHRIST (1:3) (CONTINUED)

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

- **Spiritual Blessings in Christ** — Paul begins with praise: God is the source; Christ is the channel; blessings are spiritual.
- **Heavenly places** = the spiritual realm, where our identity is secure.
- **Agree or Disagree:** Too many Christians live as if they're spiritually poor, not realizing the riches already given to them in Christ.
- **Discussion Question:** What are some "spiritual blessings" we already possess in Christ?
- Believers receive "**every spiritual blessing**," including election, adoption, and the Holy Spirit. Election (1:4), Adoption (1:5), Redemption & forgiveness (1:7), Holy Spirit (1:13–14)
- Though we live on earth, we participate in Christ's heavenly reign (i.e., **heavenly places**) because we are "in Christ."

## The Body Formed in Eternity Past (1:3-6A): THE ASPECTS OF BLESSING (1:3): GOD, BELIEVERS, SPIRITUAL, HEAVENLY, JESUS CHRIST (1:3) (CONTINUED)

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

- (see handout, we will not discuss this in detail here due to time)
- Though we live on earth, we participate in Christ's heavenly reign (i.e., **heavenly places**) because we are "**in Christ**."
- The phrase **in Christ** (Greek **en** Christō) is one that the Apostle Paul uses repeatedly and the Greek literally means "into."
- To believe **in Christ** is not simply to believe something about Christ.
- It's not just making an assertion or an affirmation about Jesus.
- When we experience authentic faith and believe into Christ, we are from that moment forward **in Christ**.

# The Body Formed in Eternity Past (1:3-6A): THE ELEMENTS OF THE ETERNAL FORMING OF THE BODY (1:4-6A): ELECTION, ETERNITY PAST, HOLINESS, LOVE (1:4)

<sup>4</sup> even as he **chose us** in him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be **holy and blameless** before him. In love

- This begins a difficult subject for some, this lesson will do its best to explain the words and phrases used as we examine how the verses fit into Paul's overall message of the letter.
- A blessing (from v.3) is that God **chose us** to be in him, and he did this in eternity past (**before the foundation of the world**).
- Later in Ephesians 2:8-9 (**who can quote this?**) we will see that salvation is not the result of any human merit or effort, whether foreseen or actual.
- God's choice was not based on anything in us, but solely on his unconditional love and sovereign purpose before the creation of the world (**Pull Up:** John 6:44; John 17:24; Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Titus 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:9; Romans 8:29-30).
- Our election means we must live holy and blameless lives, striving to follow God's commands through the Holy Spirit's empowerment. God desires not only to forgive our sins but also to conform us to the image of his beloved Son (Rom. 8:29, referenced above).
- Although "in love" occurs at the end of Ephesians 1:4, it probably modifies "he predestined us" in v.5.

# The Body Formed in Eternity Past (1:3-6A): THE ELEMENTS OF THE ETERNAL FORMING OF THE BODY (1:4-6A): ELECTION, ETERNITY PAST, HOLINESS, LOVE (1:4) (CONTINUED)

<sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

- We must acknowledge the overwhelming scriptures that tell us our salvation is solely by God's grace, and we can take no credit. At the same time, we must believe and confess.
- The purpose of election: that we become **holy and blameless**.
- Election is not a doctrine to be feared, but a truth that humbles us and leads us to worship the God who saves (thus the doxology in v.3 that Paul starts with).
- **Discussion Questions:** How does your understanding God's election affect your view of salvation? Why do people sometimes struggle with this teaching?

# The Body Formed in Eternity Past ([1:3-6A](#)): THE ELEMENTS OF THE ETERNAL FORMING OF THE BODY ([1:4-6A](#)): THE RESULT—SONSHIP ([1:5](#)) (CONTINUED)

<sup>5</sup> he **predestined** us for **adoption** to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, **according to the purpose of his will**,

- **Predestined** = God lovingly set His purpose beforehand. **READ:** [Romans 8:29–30](#)
  - This isn't cold fate, but a relational plan rooted in His love.
- **Adoption** = full legal and relational status in God's family. Adoption brings identity, inheritance, and intimacy. **READ:** [Galatians 4:4–7](#); [Romans 8:15–17](#)
  - In Christ, we're not just forgiven, we're welcomed as beloved children.
  - It is one of the most intimate truths of the gospel: God is not only our justifier, but our Father.
- **According to the purpose of His will** = God's saving initiative is rooted in His grace, not our worthiness. **READ:** [2 Timothy 1:9](#); [John 1:13](#)
  - Our adoption flows from God's good pleasure, not human effort.
- **Discussion Question:** What does it mean to you personally to be adopted into God's family?

# The Body Formed in Eternity Past ([1:3-6A](#)): THE ELEMENTS OF THE ETERNAL FORMING OF THE BODY ([1:4-6A](#)): THE RESULT—SONSHIP ([1:5](#))

<sup>5</sup> he **predestined** us for **adoption** to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, **according to the purpose of his will**,

- Election means the believers (or the Church) becomes part of God's family, since it includes adoption to sonship.
- Sonship was also enjoyed by the nation of Israel (Ex. 4:22; Hos. 1:1, Rom. 9:4).
- Just as God chose Abraham and blessed him to be a blessing to the nations (Gen. 12:1-3), and just as he chose Israel to his treasured possession (Dt. 7:6-8; 14:2), so in Christ he chose a people for himself.
- "To the praise of his glory" is a refrain repeated in Ephesians 1:12, 14.
- It signifies the ultimate purpose of election: **God's glory**.
- While there is a divide in the SBC over God sovereignty in the salvation of his saints vs. the free will of man to choose salvation, it's important that we look at all scripture. (see next)

# Man Cannot Choose God Vs. Man Must Choose/Respond

Verses Showing Inability (Man cannot choose God on his own)	
John 6:44 – “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.”	
Romans 8:7–8 – “The mind that is set on the flesh... does not submit to God's law... it cannot.”	
1 Corinthians 2:14 – “The natural person... is not able to understand them...”	
Ephesians 2:1 – “You were dead in the trespasses and sins...”	
John 8:43–44 – “Why do you not understand...? Because you cannot bear to hear my word.”	

# Man Cannot Choose God Vs. Man Must Choose/Respond

Verses Showing Inability (Man cannot choose God on his own)	Verses Showing Responsibility (Man must choose/respond)
John 6:44 – “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.”	John 3:16 – “Whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”
Romans 8:7–8 – “The mind that is set on the flesh... does not submit to God's law... it cannot.”	Acts 17:30 – “God... commands all people everywhere to repent.”
1 Corinthians 2:14 – “The natural person... is not able to understand them...”	Romans 10:9 – “If you confess with your mouth... and believe... you will be saved.”
Ephesians 2:1 – “You were dead in the trespasses and sins...”	Revelation 3:20 – “If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in...”
John 8:43–44 – “Why do you not understand...? Because you cannot bear to hear my word.”	Matthew 11:28 – “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

**Caution:** Reformed and Free Will would agree that no credit belongs to us for salvation. Even those who emphasize free affirm that salvation is by grace through faith, not by human merit. Let us be careful never to take credit for our salvation, for Scripture teaches that salvation is by grace alone, and all glory belongs to God alone.

# The Body Formed in Eternity Past (1:3-6A): THE ELEMENTS OF THE ETERNAL FORMING OF THE BODY (1:4-6A): THE GOAL—GLORY (1:6)

<sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

- **The Praise of His Glorious Grace** — The ultimate aim of God's plan is *his own glory*—through grace, poured out in Christ.
- **"The Beloved"** = **Jesus**, the one in whom all blessings are found.
- Grace isn't just undeserved; it's magnificent. It stirs the believer to praise.
- **Discussion Questions:**
  - How does/should seeing your salvation as a display of God's grace affect your thankfulness and worship?
  - Do I understand my identity as chosen, adopted, and blessed in Christ?
  - Am I living from a place of spiritual riches or spiritual poverty?
  - Is my life characterized by praise for God's grace and blessings?