

Status & Privilege

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-6 Larry - Ladies Summer series. MOMS. Children's Min Vol. STIR. Harvest.
- B. Slide7 Family beach Day - Dave & Sharee.
- C. Slide8 Israel - I failed to get everyone's email at our Israel Info meeting. Please contact Kristyn this week. I want to start communicating with you. Her email is in the bulletin.
- D. Slide9 Mike & Lorie - have about 40 boxes of tea left. *They're heading back to Asia this week.*
 - 1. The tea is grown on small family farms in their province of Yunnan, China. It is whole, loose leaf pure green tea of single origin. It is naturally cultivated and harvested by hand. By purchasing a bag you'll be joining them as they seek to bring the truth and love of Jesus to the Hani people of China.
- E. Slide10-20 Ty & Cal - connecting well with students.
 - 1. Loung Wi update - in his 60's. Lives on the outer perimeter of their village. A retired soldier in the Shan State. Black foot, partial amputee, see how that goes. TY to those who donated for this. Cal & Ty will be visiting him this week.
- F. Slide21 Donna Montes Memorial - As many of you heard, Donna Montes, Tony's ministry assistant in our children's church, was in a terrible accident on Thurs & ended up succumbing to her injuries later that day. A service will be this Saturday the 19th at 11am.
 - 1. Be praying for her husband Francisco & her sons: John & Abraham.

II. Slide22 Intro: Status & Privilege in Christ

- A. Slide23a Next week is Kelly & I celebrate our 34th anniv. But 4 1/2 years earlier when we started dating...I let her know early in our relationship that I had my eye on her for a long while. I was attracted to her before she knew it. I liked her before she liked me.
 - 1. God says the same to us, in this letter.
- B. Slide23b Some parents have communicated to their children: *You weren't planned. You were an accident. You were a mistake. You'll never amount to anything. When you're 18 you're out.* But What does God communicate to us in this 1st section of Ephesians?

1. Slide24a **Just the opposite:** You **were** planned from the beginning. You were **purchased** at an expensive price. You will be with Me **forever**.
2. **And**, each person of the Trinity was involved in these truths...in these family secrets.
 - a) We were **Planned** by the Father. **Purchased** by the Son. **And Preserved** by the Spirit.
 - (1) **Note** the natural outline...in the phrase, *praise of His glory* in vs.6,12,14.
 - b) Slide24b I can't fix your **past** if your parents uttered some of these things, **but** I can point you to **our present truth & our future Hope**.

C. Slide25 Paul's Background w/Ephesus:

1. On Paul's 2nd missionary journey he visited Ephesus, & left Aquila & Priscilla behind. He returned 2 years later & ministered for 3 years. Years later while under house arrest in Rome he writes this letter to the believers in Ephesus [Other 3 prison epistles: *Philippines, Colossians, Philemon*]
2. Slide26 Ephesus was famous for its temple to Diana/Artemis (7th Wonder of the Ancient world). Ephesus emerged as the religious center of all Asia.
3. Slide27 They had a stadium that held 50,000 spectators. This is where the riot broke out regarding Paul & his friends. Extraordinary miracles took place there...
 - a) Acts 19:11,12 **And God was doing extraordinary miracles** by the hands of Paul, so that even **handkerchiefs** or **aprons** that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

D. Paul reminds us we are rich beyond measure...yet living like beggars.

1. **Why?** Because were ignorant of our **wealth**.
2. **Ch.1-3** is about us understanding our **spiritual wealth** (see 1:3) [our heavenly bank account]
Ch.4-6 is about us understanding our **spiritual walk** [rooted in our **sp wealth** is our **sp walk**, or how we should behave ourselves] (see 4:1)

III. Slide28 HIS BLESSING ON US (3)

- A. Vs.3-14 form **a single sentence** in the Greek text. [longest in the bible]

- B. **Slide29 Every spiritual blessing** – made available in Christ. [Like string of pearls, not just 1]
1. The blessings listed in this passage should be understood in their **entirety**, rather than as *individual* blessings. **Together**, these blessings express the full scope of God's redemptive activity.
 - a) The great Scottish Bible expositor Alexander MacLaren wrote: *We may have as much of God as we will. Christ puts the key of the treasure-chamber into our hand, and bids us take all that we want. If a man is admitted into the vault of a bank and told to help himself, & comes out with 1 cent, whose fault is it that he is poor?*
 - (1) We are **rich beyond measure** Christians...**but** we often **live like beggars**.
 - b) So you are not trying to **get** anything from God...**because** you **have it** already.
- C. **And these spiritual blessings are where? In the heavenly places** – because that's where spiritual blessings are found (as opposed to **earth**).
- D. **In Him** - God found *in Christ* the all-sufficient merits for redeeming men **w/o** violating His righteousness. *In Christ* refers to the believer's **union and identification** with Christ. [in Christ 12 x's in Eph. 87x's in NT]

IV. **Slide30 HIS SELECTION OF US (4)**

- A. **Slide31a HE ELECTED US - He chose us in Him**
- B. **He chose us** (Election) & **Predestined us** (destine beforehand, *Paul uses 5x's in epistles*).
1. The doctrine of Election **is a Divine Revelation not** human speculation.
 - a) It was not dreamed up by Augustine, Luther, or Calvin, nor by Paul himself. It is revelation from God however *mysterious* it is.
 2. **Why is he sharing this?** This is a bedrock of **confidence** for the believer.
 - a) He drew you, you didn't draw Him (by anything you've *said* or *done*).
 3. **What was this based on? His good pleasure & will** (5b).
 - a) **This is the only Explanation!** (we leave it there)
 - b) There is a reason why He elects the chosen, **but** this reason is found **in God & not in them**.
 - c) Of course He wasn't obliged to save any...**so** the greater question, **once you understand His holiness...is why did He save One???**

4. Election simply states, *believers...your salvation wasn't an afterthought.*

C. SO WHEN DID HE ELECT US? (4a) before the foundation of the world.

1. Humanities story line does not go...That we were **created**. Then by **sin** we became *ornery orphans*. To which God came up w/a plan called **adoption**. **NO!**
 - a) **No**, there was **a plan** called **predestination**. We were **predestined** for **adoption**. When, **before the foundation of the world**. Before you existed. Before the universe existed.
2. This phrase is found elsewhere in the NT: John speaks of the Father's love for the Son **before the foundation of the world** (Jn.17:24). 1 Peter refers to God's plan of salvation through the lamb being known **before the foundation of the world** (1Pt.1:20). Revelation describes the names in *the book of life* as written **before the foundation of the world** (Rev.13:8).
3. * One *false charge against* the doctrine of Election is, *If we are chosen, then we can do what we like, live like we want* (Nothing further from the truth, read vs4b)

D. SO WHY DID HE ELECT US? (4b)

E. That we should be holy and w/o blame before him in love.

1. So elections purpose is **Sanctification**. Election promotes & demands **Holiness**
2. **Holiness**...the telltale **evidence** of being **elected**.
 - a) If God has elected us, He has **not** elected us to *remain sinners* but to **become holy**.
 - (1) Jesus never saves us **IN** our sins, He saves us **FROM** our sins.

F. In summary, Paul teaches that in all of God's dealings with the created order He works according to **a predetermined plan**, as **eternal as Himself** (but not apart from Himself or Christ), *in such a way that* His own **inner being** and **divine good will** are satisfied.

G. Slide31b **HE ADOPTED US** (5)

H. The bestowing of familial **rights & privileges** on a person *born outside the family*.

1. **Story**: My wife and I waited 15 years for a child that never came by the natural way. However we were approached one day with a lead of a newborn not yet born. I remember standing in front of **the judge** on our day of adoption. He pointed his finger and asked of me, "**Is anyone coercing you to adopt this little boy?**" After we had assured him that we were doing so out of **love** for our

son, he made this statement. "From today on, he is **your son**. He may **disappoint** you, even **grieve** you **but** he is **your son**. **Everything you own** one day will be his **and he will bear your name**." Then he looked to the clerk and gave this command. "So order a change in **this child's birth certificate** **and** may it reflect that **these are the parents of this child**."

a) It was then that I realized that my Heavenly Father loved me so much that, **without coercion**, He **loved me** and **gave His all to me**. On that day, He **changed my name** and **I gladly bear His name** **and His image**. *Gerald Penix*

2. Adoption involves the placing of a family member into the privileges & blessings of adulthood.

3. The adopted person had **all the rights** of a legitimate son in his **new family**, & completely **lost all rights** in his **old family**.

a) In the eyes of the law he was a **new person**.

b) Even all **debts & obligations** from his previous family were **abolished**.

4. **And God didn't adopt cute lil kids**, **but instead He adopted enemies**.

I. (6) **To the praise of His glory** (vs. 6,12,14) – **Wait, it's not all about me?**

God saves sinners not to solve their problems but to bring glory to Himself. (say again)

1. **So, God gets the glory...you get the joy!**

J. **God's Fatherly relationship** with Jesus implies 4 things: **1st** it implies **authority**. The Father commands and disposes'. He calls his Son to exercise **obedience** to his will. **2nd**, it implies **affection**. **3rd**, **fellowship**. **4th**, **honor** (God wills to exalt his Son).

1. **All this extends to us/God's adopted children**. In, thru, & under JC their Lord, we are **ruled, loved, accompanied, and honored** by our heavenly Father.

K. **Slide31c HE ACCEPTED US** (6)

L. **He made us accepted** – made us **or favored us**. (like *Mary, rejoice highly favored one* in Lk1:28)

1. In ourselves, we are **not** acceptable to God, **but in Christ**, we are **made accepted**. Read the Epistle to Philemon for a beautiful illustration of this truth. Paul wrote, **Receive your slave Onesimus as you would receive me**. Phile.17

M. **Slide32** Recap: *He Elected us. He Adopted us. He Accepted us.*

N. Communion: