

**WHO I AM**  
Ephesians 1:4-6  
Jeff Wall

Review: People, Prayer and Praise

The heavenly realms are *The invisible realities of our life now.*

**7 Blessings of Highly Elected People!**

4 things to “take note of” in this hymn of praise.

- Take note of the seven specific blessings that God has given.
- Verses 3-14 are one long sentence
- 3X “*the praise of His glory.*” An early hymn chorus?
- Father blessing us, the Son blessing us and the Holy Spirit blessing us.

**THE FATHER** “*For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.*” Eph. 1:4 (NIV)

The question is, how can we be “chosen” and still have the responsibility to choose? If my life is “predestined” do I ever really make any decisions?

Does man have a free will?

**YES**

Does God have absolute control?

**YES**

How do we work out this thing about predestination, election? How do you balance the two truths: 1. God is sovereign, He gets to do whatever He wants to do.

2. God has given us free will.

“*Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*” Matt. 11:28 (NIV)

Paul: “*I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning.*” Eph 3:9

- Doesn’t a mystery create a tension? We don’t get to read the end of this mystery novel until we get to heaven.
- God is sovereign. Man has free will. It’s two sides of one truth. We do not have the capacity to see both sides of the “coin” at the same time!

“The mysteries about God remind me of the MAJESTY of God.” J.A. Wall

“let God be wiser than man” J. I Packer

**Blessing #1 God Chose us to be holy and blameless!**

When did He choose? “*He chose us before the foundation...*” !

- That tells me what God thinks of me. God has always thought of me.
- Your salvation is not an afterthought... it is a part of God’s eternal thoughts.

What did He choose? For us to be holy and blameless !

- Some of you are probably thinking, “That’s great. When is it going to happen?”
- I’m holy means that God has made me a whole person again.
- The word “blameless” means literally “a sacrifice fit to offer to God.” It comes from the Jewish idea of the lamb that had to be without spot or blemish.
- He has made you a sacrifice fit to offer to Him.
- That means I don’t have to earn my holiness and earn my blameless before God. I just have to live out the gift that He’s already given me.

- This is one of those truths we have to accept even though it doesn't seem to be real. Do you believe that the world is round?

### **“Chosen” and “Predestined”**

*“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.” Eph. 1:5-6 (NIV)*

Roman Adoptions: *Patria potestas* – the father had absolute power over the children.

When adopted into a Roman family:

- You received all the rights of the adopted family
- You lost all of your rights
- You were no longer liable for any of the debt of the birth family

What family did we leave? Adam's. Adam's family is a dysfunctional family.

What family are we adopted into? Jesus' family. Jesus calls us brothers and sisters. God is our father in heaven.

Romans 8:15 says this about our adoption. *“And so we should not be like cringing, fearful slaves but we should behave like God's very own children, adopted into the bosom of His family, calling to Him ‘Father! Father! Abba! Father.’”*

An adoption shouts the truth: “I am I am wanted - I am chosen”

### **Blessing #2 God has adopted me into His Family!**

*“In accordance with His pleasure and will...”*

*“To the praise of His glorious grace...”*

The reason for the adoption:

God's will: It was His decision. God wanted to!

God's pleasure: It was the joyous thing to do.

The result of the adoption: Glory and Praise to God's grace

**The most important impact of our adoption is that eternity will echo with the praise:**

**GOD IS A GIVING GOD!**

**WHO I AM?**

**Life Application: “It's Not About Me”... My life is meant to bring glory to God!**