

***Jackpot: Our Spiritual Possessions in Christ***

*PASTOR MIKE YODER • EPHESIANS 1:3-14*



*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

*For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love*

*He predestined us for adoption to sonship 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.*



*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace*

**Ephesians 1:7**

*that He lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding*

*He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ,*



*to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment — to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.*

*In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will,*

**Ephesians 1:11**

*in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory.*

*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the Gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,*

*who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of His glory.*



**Christianity starts with “you are” not “you do.” Our identity is the foundation and security for all that God asks of our conduct.**

**The local church is perfected not by better programs, but by beholding the glory of the invisible.**

**Tom Julien**

The praise of God for  
His gift of Christ (1:3)



**The plan of God through our  
belonging in Christ (1:4–14)**





God's choosing...*to be holy  
and blameless.* (1:4)





*Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac.*

*Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad — in order that God's purpose in election might stand:*

*not by works but by Him who calls — she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”*

**God is in no way obligated to elect us because He created us. Election is a privilege we are given because of God's great overflowing love for us in Christ.**

Everybody finds the doctrine of election difficult. ‘Didn’t I choose God?’ somebody asks indignantly; to which we must answer ‘Yes, indeed you did, and freely, but only because in eternity God had first chosen you.’

**John Stott**



**‘Didn’t I decide for Christ?’ asks somebody else; to which we must reply ‘Yes, indeed you did, and freely, but only because in eternity God had first decided for you.’**

**John Stott**

**The doctrine of election is a stimulus to humility, not a ground for boasting. The doctrine of election is an incentive to holiness, not an excuse for sin.**

**John Stott**

God's predestination...*for*  
*adoption to sonship.* (1:5,6)



God's redemption...  
*forgiveness of sin.* (1:7,8)





God's disclosure...*a plan  
for all time.* (1:9,10)





Christ is the One *in whom* God chooses to sum up the cosmos. He is the focal point...through whom all this occurs.

God's security...*through  
the Holy Spirit.* (1:13,14)



**The purpose of God in His  
salvation through Christ**  
(1:11,12; 1:6a; 1:14b)



If we shared (Paul's) perspective, we would also share his praise. For doctrine leads to doxology as well as to duty. Life would become worship, and we would bless God constantly for having blessed us so richly in Christ.

**John Stott**



Those in Christ receive  
unfathomable, incalculable  
riches from God.

