

GREAT GIFTS FROM GOD (Ephesians 1:3-12)

I. He chose us before the world began (vs. 4).

- A. God chose those who are in Christ to be His before the world began.
 - 1. Before God ever set in motion the creation of the world, He planned for that group of people who would be in Christ to be His.
 - 2. He wanted a special group of people as His own and He chose those who would be in Christ.
- B. This also points to the fact that God put a plan in place for mankind to be saved before the world began.
 - 1. This idea is seen in that Jesus is called the “Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8).
 - 2. The plan before the world began was for Jesus to be the great gift to all mankind (1 Peter 1:19-20).
- C. The reason this is important is that it motivates us to be holy and without blame before God.
 - 1. When we think of the fact that God chose a group of people, and we are that people, before the world began it should cause us to live correctly and right before Him.
 - 2. He didn’t choose us to wallow in sin, but to be holy.

II. He adopted us into His family (vs. 5-6).

- A. The Bible does teach predestination as is plainly shown here.
 - 1. The word simply means “determine beforehand.”
 - 2. This goes back to the previous verse of being chosen before the world began.
- B. Again, God predestinated a certain people before the world began, in this case, to be adopted.
 - 1. That group is those who are in Christ (vs. 3).
 - 2. Notice that it is done by or through Jesus Christ.
- C. Adoption is the process of taking one who is not your biological child into your home, giving him your name and legally making him your child.
 - 1. The one who does this does so out of love because the one adopted has no legal claim to be such.
 - 2. God does this out of love not guilt or pity.
 - 3. It shows that we are now under His care which He has promised us (1 Peter 5:7).
 - 4. It should cause us to act like His children in the sense of rendering to Him our obedience.
- D. The reason He did this was for His glory and not ours.
 - 1. We should give Him the glory and praise for such a wonderful and kind act.
 - 2. We should not boast or brag because we have been adopted into His family, but praise Him for being allowed to be such.

III. He gave us the forgiveness of sins (vs. 7).

- A. The “whom” there is the One we are in, who is Christ.

1. We have the redemption price paid by Jesus.
2. The price is His blood.
- B. Redemption is explained as the forgiveness of our sins.
 1. He paid the price our sins would cost us.
 2. We know the price of sin is death (Romans 6:23) and Jesus gladly paid that for us.
- C. This is a result of the grace of God.
 1. Grace is unmerited favor and it shows that we did not deserve to have our sins forgiven.
 2. He did this out of His own good will.
 3. What makes it amazing to me is how we were when He did it (Romans 5:7-8).

IV. He revealed His will to us (vs. 8-10).

- A. God revealed the depths of His wisdom and prudence to us.
 1. The church shows His wisdom to mankind (Ephesians 3:10).
 2. The word "prudence" means "the knowledge of how to regulate one's relationships and dealings with other people."
 - a. This simply means the ability to solve the problem that is at hand.
 - b. The problem was how to get man saved.
- B. He revealed His wisdom and ability to solve the problem of getting man saved through the mystery of His will.
 1. A mystery biblically speaking is something that was hidden that is now revealed.
 2. It was hidden from man how God would solve the problem until it was time to reveal it.
 3. He revealed His plan through Christ at the right moment in time for the plan to be enacted and completed.
- C. The plan was to gather together all in Christ.
 1. This refers to those who want to be in Christ.
 2. Both Jew and Gentile are allowed to be in Christ.

V. He has given us an inheritance (vs. 11-12).

- A. Those in Christ are the sons of God through adoption.
- B. As children of God, we receive an inheritance as such.
 1. In our world, you receive an inheritance when the one leaving it dies.
 2. Spiritually speaking, we receive our inheritance when we die.
- C. This inheritance is heaven.
 1. The place that Jesus went to prepare for His followers.
 2. It is a place that God had in mind for His people also before the world began.
 3. We know this because it was a part of the plan that was from the beginning.
- D. Because of that great plan you and I ought to bring glory to God.
 1. That is the most important work we do.
 2. The things we do are to be done to God's glory.