

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 6 (#912186)
WEEK 2 (912342)
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

TITLE: Program 6 – Because of God’s Love For Us, We Are Predestined To Be Adopted

MONDAY

OPEN

You know sometimes it is hard for us, Beloved, to get it into our head how much God loves us. So many times we look at the tragedies and we look at the pain and we look at the circumstances of life and we think if God loved me He wouldn’t allow this. O Beloved, once you understand what God has predestined you for you’ll understand the love of God.

PART ONE

Come my friend and sit down with me and let’s get this awesome incredible truth into our heads so that it can seep down and just fill our hearts with its wonderful life-giving freeing, liberating, healing, converting truth. Remember in your study guide we have told you that it is vital for you to read Scripture out loud, because if you read it aloud what will happen is

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you’ll hear it, and the hearing of it will help you remember. You’re seeing it, you’re hearing it, you’re saying it. And when you do that repeatedly three times in the morning, three times at noon, and three times at night, then pretty soon it is going to be yours. So, maybe you have just discovered this program and you don’t know that we have a wonderful free gift for you. It is truly free. It costs us, but it’s free to you and that is a study guide on the book of Ephesians, so that you can discover truth for yourself, so that you can dig in, so that you can mark the text. Well I have read it numerous times and I’m going to read it again and it is Ephesians chapter 1, verse 4. **“Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that...,”** this is the purpose, **“...we [should] be holy and blameless...,”** it says, **“...before Him in love, He...,”** God, **“...predestined us to adoption as sons....”** (Ephesians 1:4-5a) Now that word, “predestined” is the Greek word and I said I wasn’t going to give them to you, but I’m going to give it to you because I want you to see it and connect it to foreknowledge that we saw in 1 Peter in several programs back is prognosis, and it means to know beforehand. Well this is “pro” p-r-o, orizo, o-r-i-z-o. And “orizo” is like the horizon and so it’s before the horizon. And what he’s saying is that when he uses this word predestined he’s saying that God determined before to adopt you as His child. When? Well, we go back to Ephesians chapter 1 and verse 4 and I want us to draw again on a piece of paper. You should be able to do this by now; a straight line, which represents time, a curve at the beginning of that straight line like a “C” facing the straight line. And before that curve which is before the foundation of the world, a triangle to represent God. And then we have you, a stick figure, and what he is saying is that He chose you in Christ before the foundation of the world. So we’re going to put a cross right beside the stick figure of you to represent Jesus Christ. I always use a cross to represent Jesus Christ and what I want you to see is that God, before the foundation of the world knew men were going to sin, before the foundation of the world and the heavenly councils. It says, that Jesus is the

Lamb who, has a book, the Lamb’s book of life, where our names are written before, or from the foundation of the world. So God is telling us this incredible truth that is really in a sense, hard to comprehend in our finite thinking, but if we look at it and we say, God, this is what You said, this is what You mean. You speak only truth and so I bow the knee before You and in truth I accept this. And so He says, “...**He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world....**” (Ephesians 1:4a) It also says that “**He predestined us to adoption as sons....**” (Ephesians 1:5a) Now the only way that He can adopt us as sons is for first Him to take care of our sin. And He’s going to take care of our sin by taking His Son, who is God in the flesh and making Jesus who knew no sin to be sin for us. All right, with that He’s going to shed His blood. And so on this line draw a cross about half way through the line and put Jesus in a stick figure on that cross. And then coming out of Jesus’ side put red drops down, which is the blood of Jesus Christ. All right now, what God is going to do is He’s going to adopt you as His son. He has predestined you to adoption as sons. So before the foundation of the world when He, God chose you in Christ Jesus He also predestined, He pro-ordained you, He determined beforehand that He was going to take you and He was going to adopt you into His family so that you would become His child. Now what I want us to do is I want us to look at a Scripture that shows us this pro-ordained that shows us this predetermined plan, this predestining of God. You know to some people, they say O, that’s a Presbyterian doctrine and I’m a Baptist or I’m a Lutheran, or I’m a Catholic, or I’m whatever. Do you know what? You and I sit down together; I may have a Catholic here. I may have a Protestant there. I may have a Pentecostal there, whatever. When we open the Word of God and we observe the text and we look at it to see exactly what God is saying, when we seek to understand the meaning of His words and the meaning of His words is clear when you go back to seeing what the original language said and how that word was used at that time. So when we see the meaning of His words, when

we watch these key repeated phrases and we take those key repeated phrases and we analyze what we learn from marking each one of those, then you and I, despite our denominational differences, will come to the same conclusion, because God speaks clearly. He means what He says and He says what He means. And He intends for you to observe what He says, to watch it and observe it carefully to discover what He says so that you then can correctly understand what He’s saying, interpret it and then live it out accordingly. So let’s go now and let Scripture interpret Scripture. And the first place I want us to go is to Acts chapter 4, verse 27 and 28. Now what has happened is the apostles have been out and they have been sharing the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. They were put in prison. When they were released they came back and they told what had happened. And it says, **“And when...,”** in verse 24, **“...they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, ‘O Lord, it is You who made the heavens and the earth, and the sea, and all [the] that is in them,’ (Acts 4:24) it is You.** They knew who the Creator was. They knew how the world came into existence. And it says, **“Who by the...Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, ‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the people devise futile things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers...gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ.’” (Acts 4:25-26)** This was what was happening in the days of Jesus. The world came against Jesus. The chief priests came against Jesus. The rulers of Rome came against Jesus. They were gathered together against Him. And I just want to pause here and say this that God allows us as His children and as His sons, to suffer. As His children you and I can know it is given unto us not only to believe in Jesus, but to suffer for His name sake. And God knows this. And He warns us and He tells us about this. But this is not a sign that God does not love you. God is carrying out an eternal purpose, and you and I are part of that eternal purpose. So he goes on to say, **“For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom**

You anointed both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.” (Acts 4:27-28) So go back to your diagram, go back to the cross and know this that all that Jesus suffered on that cross was not an accident. It looks like it’s the act of men. It looks like it is the decision of Rome. It looks like the chief priests and the scribes are in cohorts with Rome, but listen, this is God’s predetermined plan. This is what God predestined. And God predestined the death of His Son, because as John 3:16 says, **“...God so loved [you] that He gave His only begotten Son....” (John 3:16a)** So before the foundation of the world, you were chosen in Christ Jesus. Before the foundation of the world you were predestined to adoption as sons. Before the foundation of the world God knew that His Son would come, that He would be born in the fullness of time, that He would be born of a virgin, that He would be tempted in all ways as we are and yet without sin, that God, in the fullness of time and at the right time, when the hour had come that Jesus would be the corn of wheat that would fall into the ground and die so that He would not abide alone, because He died not just for sin, but He died for your sin. That’s how much He loves you. We’ll talk about it some more in just a minute, because you really need to understand this truth Beloved.

PART TWO

Oh what a God we have, Beloved! And to think that that God can be called Abba Father. It’s incredible and it’s part of God’s plan because He loves you. Well we’ve been looking at that word that He predestined us to adoption as sons. I want to take us now to Acts chapter 2 and I want to go back to verse 22, because I want to show you something. I want to show you, we’ve talked about the death of Jesus Christ, but it isn’t just that Jesus died, but that He was raised again from the dead. And so in Acts chapter 2 it

says, **“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—this Man, delivered over...,”** now watch the word, **“...by the predetermined plan...of God....” (Acts 2:22-23a)** Now you should be able to point to your drawing and I say to you, okay, when was that plan predetermined? And immediately your hand’s going to go to the left of the page and you’re going to say, before the foundation of the world. That’s when it was predetermined, and you’re right. It says, **“...delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to [the] cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. (Acts 2:23)**

Listen, God is sovereign, and yet in that mystery that is so hard to explain, God holds us accountable for what we do. We are held accountable for our deeds, for the works of our life, for what we produce. And he goes on to say, “But you put Him to death.” Yes, it was the predetermined plan of God, but God used you and He holds you accountable and you put Him to death. But God raised Him from the dead. **“...God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death....” (Acts 2:24a)** Now listen, right next to that cross, draw a tomb. Draw it above ground. All right, and then out of that tomb you have coming Jesus Christ in all His triumph, and God raised Him from the dead, and when He did He put an end to the agony of death.

Beloved, you may have cancer, you may have gotten a death sentence from God, but I want you to know that you can’t die until God is ready for you to die, because Psalm 119 tells me this, that before you were ever formed in your mother’s womb, God numbered your days. (Psalm 119:73, *Psalm 139:16*) When the sperm and the egg came together to create you God knew whose sperm it would be, God knew whose egg it would be. You may be an illegitimate child like my husband, but God says you’re not illegitimate because I chose you, [In Christ before the foundation of the world. I knew you. I predestined you to adoption as sons. I have a plan for your life. I did it

according to the kind intention of My will.] (Paraphrase, Ephesians 1:4-5)
And so therefore, because Jesus has put an end to the agony of death,
although you are facing a death sentence it can’t come until I am ready, and
because you are Mine, and because you are My child, then the minute that
you are absent from the body you are present with the Lord to live as Christ.
To die is gain, to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord is
far better than living down here on earth. And there’s no agony to death, and
there’s no agony to death Beloved, because your sins have been paid for in
full. You have been redeemed by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen
to what he says in Ephesians, chapter 1 and let’s go back there. And this is
what he says: **“He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus
Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the
praise of the glory of His grace....”** Which is lavish, extravagant grace is
unmerited favor, **“...which He [poured out] on us in the Beloved.”**
(Ephesians 1:5-6) Through Christ He has loved you. Through Christ He has
poured out His grace upon you. And it says, **“In Him...,”** in the Beloved, in
Jesus, **“...we have redemption through His blood....”** (Ephesians 1:7a)
Do you know what **“...redemption through His blood...”** means?
Redemption here is a word that is used for buying a slave and setting the
slave free. It’s used for releasing a prisoner. You, when you commit sin, are
a slave to sin and loaded with the guilt that comes. “But if the Son therefore,
shall set you free, you shall be free indeed.” (Paraphrased, John 8:36) You
are no longer a slave to sin. Sin has been taken care of. It has been paid for
in full. And because, Beloved, it has been paid for in full then **“...there
is...no condemnation [to] those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of
the Spirit of life in Christ...has set you free [from the principle] from the
law of sin and death.”** (Romans 8:1-2) This is what he’s telling us. This is
the redemption that you and I have. And the word for redemption is apo, a-
p-o, and then it’s l-y-t-r-o-s-i-s and it means to free from. That’s what He
has done. He has freed you from your sins. He has granted you forgiveness

of sins. I want you to go with me for just one minute to 1 Peter chapter 1. And 1 Peter chapter 1 uses this word “redemption” and it says, **“Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile...,”** your vain, **“...way of life inherited from your...fathers, but with [the] precious blood...of Christ. For He...,”** now watch, **“...He [Jesus]...”** Let’s go back to our drawing, **“...He...,”** Jesus, **“...was foreknown...”** **“...He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but [He] has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.”** (1 Peter 1:18-20) How can you doubt that God loves you? Jesus was crucified for you. Jesus was made sin for you. His blood was shed in order to redeem you because the only price that can be paid that gets you out of the slave market of sin is the blood of Jesus Christ, the blood of a sinless man. And so Jesus shed His blood for you. You were redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, and He did all this for the sake of you. And this is why you and I then can go to that wonderful wonderful verse in Romans, chapter 8. And in Romans, chapter 8, once again you see the word “predestined.” And I want you to understand this. In Romans chapter 8 in verse 28, and it says, **“And we know that God [keeps on causing]...,”** present tense in the Greek, **“...all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are [the] called according to His purpose.”** Remember all of this is according to God’s purpose, the kind intention of His will. **“For those whom He foreknew...,”** go back to your drawing. When? Before the foundation of the world. **“Those whom He foreknew He...predestined, [He predestined]...,”** He marked out beforehand, **“...to become conformed to the image of His Son....”** Verse 30: **“And those whom He predestined, He...called; and those whom he called, He...justified; and those whom He justified, he...glorified. What...shall we say to these things? If God [be] for us, who [can be] against us?”** (Romans 8:28-31) You are loved by God.