

# Ephesians

*More than a Makeover*

## “Election Results”

### Ephesians 1:3-8

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / September 22, 2024*

**Ephesians 1:3-14** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, <sup>8</sup> which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup> In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

#### I. There’s nothing left for God to give because He’s given us everything we need!

**Ephesians 1:3** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places...”

The word “spiritual” doesn’t refer to the extent of the blessings, but their Source (see Eph. 5:19 & Eph 6:12).

#### 4 Ways God Has Given You All You’ll Ever Need

1. He blessed us in the Beloved.

**Ephesians 1:6** “To the praise of His glorious grace, with which **He has blessed us in the Beloved.**”

2. He redeemed us.

**Ephesians 1:7a** “In Him **we have redemption** through His blood...”

3. He forgave us.

**Ephesians 1:7b** “...the **forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of His grace”

4. He lavished all of this upon us.

**Ephesians 1:8** “**Which He lavished upon us**, in all wisdom and insight.”

#### II. Two of God’s greatest gifts to us are “election” and “predestination.”

**Ephesians 1:4-5** “Even as **He chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> **He predestined us** for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will...”

A. God chose to save us (not just before we were born, but before the world was born).

**Ephesians 1:4a** “Even as He chose us in Him **before the foundation of the world...**”

B. God chose to sanctify us.

**Ephesians 1:4b** “...that **we should be holy and blameless** before Him...”

C. God chose to glorify us.

**Ephesians 1:5-6** “**He predestined us** for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved.”

D. Election doesn’t negate evangelism. It empowers it.

**Romans 1:16** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, **for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

**John 6:37-40,44** “**All that the Father gives Me will come to Me**, and whoever comes to Me I will never cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of Him who sent Me, **that I should lose nothing of all that He has given Me, but raise it up on the last day.** <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of My Father, that **everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life**, and I will raise Him up on the last day... <sup>44</sup> **No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.** And I will raise him up on the last day.”

E. Since salvation is a work of God from start to finish, the only way to “fail” in evangelism is to not do it.

**Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:**

1. What do you have an irrational fear of?
2. The first point is “There’s nothing left for God to give because He’s given us everything we need!” How does that make you feel?
3. Pastor Peter said “Oftentimes, we don’t need a new blessing. We just need to do something more with what God has already given us.” What do you think of that statement?
4. Pastor Peter claimed the doctrines of election and predestination are “two of God’s greatest gifts.” Why do you agree or disagree with that claim?
5. What was the point of the lightbulb illustration?