

To the Praise of His Glory Ephesians 1:3-6

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

In verse 6 we find the reason for what comes before and what comes after.

Paul says that this was to the praise of the glory of His grace.

In verse 12 and 14 he repeats it this way, "To the praise of His glory."

So what is he saying? Well let's go back a few weeks. We saw that God has blessed us with spiritual blessings out of His grace, that He chose us out of humanity to give us salvation out of His grace, that we have been predestined to be adopted as sons out of His grace.

What that means is that there is no reason in us for these blessings to be given to us.

For by grace you are saved and not of any works in or by us.

It is not by works of righteousness that we have done but solely because of His mercy.

As the words of the old hymn go, "Nothing in my hand I bring simply to the cross I cling."

Paul also points out that our salvation is ultimately for God's glory. Look at the phrase "to the praise of His glorious grace" in verse 6 and the phrase "to the praise of His glory" in verses 12 and 14. Why did God choose to bless us with this great salvation? That He may be glorified. God saves people for His glory. *Christ-Centered Exposition - – Exalting Jesus In Ephesians: Christ-Centered Exposition.*

GOD is essentially glorious; even were there no eyes to behold him, no lips to hymn his praise, no intelligent creatures to obey him, he would be infinitely glorious in himself. Yet, nevertheless, God chooseth to exhibit his glory that he may get praise out of the hearts of intelligent beings, who, beholding the varied and wonderful manifestations of the exceeding riches of his grace, may be compelled, with joy and gratitude, to glorify him. *Spurgeon*

THE PECULIAR GLORIES OF THIS GRACE OUGHT TO BE POINTED OUT. *Spurgeon*

1. It is sovereign. Given to man according to the absolute will of the Almighty.
2. Free. Man is not expected to do anything to earn or obtain the grace of God; he would not, if he were expected; he could not, if he were required.
3. Full. Grace to cover all the man's sins, whatever they may be.
4. Unfailing in continuance. The gifts of God are without repentance. Grace is no intermittent brook flowing today and dried up tomorrow, no fleeting meteor dazzling all beholders and then

vanishing in thick darkness.

5. Unalloyed and unmingled. God's grace in saving souls rules alone. Human merit does not intrude here and there to make a patchwork of the whole. Grace is Alpha, grace is Omega. It is grace's glory that no mortal finger touches her work, and no human hammer is lifted up thereon.

6. Need I say that it is one glory of this grace that while it thus reveals itself so fully, it never interferes with any other attribute of God? On the contrary, it only tends to illustrate all the other glories of the Divine character.

Literally, Ephesians 1:6a might be rendered "to the praise of His glorious grace which He 'graced' to us." *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.*

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (NKJV) 11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 12:32 (NKJV) 32 Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Isaiah 43:20 (NKJV) 20 The beast of the field will honor Me, The jackals and the ostriches, Because I give waters in the wilderness And rivers in the desert, To give drink to My people, My chosen.

All that is done by election is fitted to excite praise. Election is to life, and pardon, and holiness, and heaven. But why should not a man praise God for these things? God chooses men to be holy, not sinful; to be happy, not miserable; to be pure, not impure; to be saved, not to be lost. For these things he should be praised. He should be praised that he has not left the whole race to wander away and die. *Barnes' Notes on the New Testament.*

Psalms 19:1 (NKJV) 1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

His grace (the unmerited favor he shows his chosen ones) is indeed glorious—without it, we would have no hope, and our lives would be nothing more than a few years on earth. Instead, we have purpose for living and hope of eternal life. *Life Application Bible Commentary - Life Application Bible Commentary – Ephesians.*

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV) 31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

God's glory implies his revelation of himself, and 'the glory of his grace' (AV) is 'his self-disclosure as a gracious God' *Tyndale Commentaries - Tyndale New Testament Commentaries – Ephesians*.

Isaiah 43:21 (NKJV) 21 This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise.

Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV) 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Ephesians 2:7 (NKJV) 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

One reason God chose Israel was for them to bring him glory. *Bible Background Commentary - The IVP Bible Background Commentary – New Testament*.

Isaiah 60:21 (NKJV) 21 Also your people shall all be righteous; They shall inherit the land forever, The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified.

Isaiah 61:3 (NKJV) 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

Jeremiah 13:11 (NKJV) 11 For as the sash clings to the waist of a man, so I have caused the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah to cling to Me,' says the LORD, 'that they may become My people, for renown, for praise, and for glory; but they would not hear.'