

Nov 06, 2022



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

The value God places on those He loves doesn't come from anything we do, but from the simple and powerful truth that He's chosen us to be His own

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Heavenly Father, I know You love me, accept me, and cherish me. Thank You for adopting me as Your child and loving me without conditions

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, And I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life

(Isa 43:4 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Nov 17, 2021)

**Series: God's Exceptional
Choice**

UNIT 3: We are God's Artwork

NEXT WEEK

**Christ Is Wisdom
(Eph 1:15-23)**

God Picked You Eph 1:1-14

Lesson Background and Introduction

One of the most beautiful practices in the world is the act of adoption. Through adoption a child who is not the natural offspring of a couple is officially declared to be their child, possessing all of the natural rights and privileges of such a position. In the New Testament, the Greek word translated "adoption" means "placing as a son." The writer personally knows a young man who was abandoned by his mother as a baby. If he would have remained with her, he would have grown up in poverty and surrounded by drug abuse. A young Christian couple adopted him as their own son. As a result, he grew up in a godly and secure atmosphere and was treated with the same loving care as the couple's biological children. Not only did the couple treat him as an equal with their other children, but their birth children also accepted him as a brother and did not show jealousy or superiority in any way. Being adopted into that family was a privilege for an even more important reason. In his adopted family's home, the boy heard the gospel and came to know Christ as his Saviour at a young age. In the physical world adoption is a marvelous blessing, but in the spiritual realm it is an even greater blessing. This week's text refers to the blessing of spiritual adoption. Spiritual adoption is the act whereby God takes people who are the natural children of Satan and accepts them into His own spiritual family the moment they receive Christ as their Saviour. He regards the new believer as one of His true sons, with all the rights and privileges of such a glorious position. God's adopted children possess eternal life (the sons of God will be brought to glory, according to Hebrews 2:10), the Holy Spirit (Gal. 4:6), and the same inheritance as Jesus Himself. We are truly highly privileged heirs; we are co-heirs with Christ Himself (Rom. 8:17). When my elderly aunt passed away, my brother and I received an inheritance, for we were her next of kin. We were not simply heirs, however. We were co-heirs, which means that we shared the inheritance. God is exceedingly kind to His adopted children, for in making us coheirs with Christ, He could not have done more for us. We have a glorious future through our relationship with Jesus Christ. We do not know exactly what the Christian's inheritance will be, but every believer is promised future blessing. Someday the adopted sons will reign with the Son (Ps. 149:5-9; 1 Cor. 6:23; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 3:21). We are coheirs and brothers of Christ (Heb. 2:11).

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

The book of Ephesians is one of what we often call Paul's prison letters. As in Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon, Paul presented himself as "the prisoner" (Ephesians 3:1; compare 2 Timothy 1:8). It is reasonable to conclude that he wrote this letter while he was a prisoner in Rome (see Acts 22-28) in about AD 63. Paul's letter to the Ephesians has many of the features of his other letters. But unlike the others, Ephesians does not clearly address a problem or issues that arose in a particular church. Rather, it reads as a general reminder and instruction in the nature of the gospel and the Christian life. This is one reason some believe it was a circular letter that was sent to the city of Ephesus (in present-day Turkey) to be read and then shared in the surrounding region (see Ephesians 1:1). Ephesians includes challenging language and ideas. Our scripture text mentions many concepts that long have been debated. But when we remember the challenges that Christians of both Jewish and Gentile backgrounds faced, we can reframe those difficult concepts.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

God Picked Us Through His Blessings (1:1-5)

Blessing of Holiness (1-4)

- God choose and appointed us for holiness (John 15:16)
- God predestined and conformed us into holiness (Rom 8:28-29)
- God created us and prepared us in advance for holiness (Eph 2:10)
- God clothed us in holiness (Col 3:12)
- God called us to live a holy life (1Thes 4:7)

Blessing of Adoption (5)

- Adoption through the right to be a child of His (John 1:12)
- Adoption through being led by the Holy Spirit as sons of God (Rom 8:13-14)
- Adoption through the Holy Spirit's indwelling (Gal 4:6-7)

God Picked Us Through His Love (1:6-8)

Love leading to Redemption (6-8)

- Redemption through justification by grace (Rom 3:22-24)
- Redemption through being in Jesus (1 Cor 1:30)
- Redemption through the rescuing of Jesus (Col 1:13-14)
- Redemption through the blood of Jesus (Heb 9:13-15)
- Redemption through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus (1 Pet 1:18-19)
- Redemption through the blood purchase of Jesus (Rev 5:9)

God Picked Us Through His Plan (1:9-14)

Plan for Reconciliation (9-10)

- Reconciliation through Jesus' sacrifice (Col 1:19-20)
- Reconciliation through the death of Jesus (Rom 5:9-11)
- Reconciliation through Jesus being our peace (Eph 2:14-16)

Plan for an Inheritance (11-12)

- Inheritance through the promise of blamelessness (Ps 37:18)
- Inheritance through the promise of commitment to God (Acts 20:32)
- Inheritance through the promise made to Abraham (Gal 3:17-19)
- Inheritance through the promise of faithful service (Col 3:23-24)
- Inheritance through the promise of the resurrection of Jesus (1 Pet 1:3-4)

Plan for a Guarantee (13-14)

- Guaranteed through the testimony of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:16)
- Guaranteed through the God's ownership (2 Cor 1:21-22)
- Guaranteed through God's purpose and indwelling Holy Spirit (2 Cor 5:5)
- Guaranteed through God's power to hold us in His hands (John 10:27-30)