

## *Sermon Notes*

### *Themes from Ephesians*

“Predestination, Election, and Comfort” – Eph. 1:3-6

#### I. Introduction

##### A. The position of blessing

1. Text – Ephesians 1:3
2. Verse 3 becomes the basis for introducing the doctrine of election.

##### B. Election / Predestination

1. Perhaps the most misunderstood and reviled doctrine found in Christendom.

##### C. Main Text: Ephesians 1:4-6,11

#### II. Exposition

##### A. Key observations

1. Verse 5, 11 – *Predestined* or “to be marked out beforehand.”
2. This predestination is based upon God’s will alone, vs. 5,11.
  - a. Paul goes out of his way to emphasize this as did John in John 1:12-13.

##### B. Key words

1. “*Just as*” – Links verses 3-4.
2. “*Chose*” – to pick out or elect.
3. “*Adoption*” – place and condition of a son given to whom it does not naturally belong, verse 5.

#### C. Three Views of Election

1. Denial of election outright.
2. Election is based upon foreknowledge (Prescient view).
  - a. Problems
    1. Election such as this is not really election.
    2. Man’s spiritual condition is hopeless – Ro. 3:10-18.
    3. The real problem is not election, but over man’s depravity – Eph. 2:1; Ro. 3:11; John 6:44; Gen. 6:5.
  - b. Sometimes an appeal is made to Romans 8 for support. Yet, this view of election does not offend people, but Paul’s view does and he knew it! (Romans 9).
3. Election pure and simple.
  - a. God saved me when I did not even know better.
  - b. Is the question, “Why did He not save all?” or “Why did He save anyone?”

#### III. Points for Reflection

- A. Election eliminates boasting.
- B. Election gives assurance of salvation (**COMFORT**).
- C. Election leads to holiness.
- D. Election promotes evangelism.
- E. Election creates wonderment, mystery, and awe for God’s plan.