

**A Gift List of His Grace**

Ephesians 1:3-6

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As is typical at the opening of a New Testament letter, Paul begins with a statement of praise and thankfulness to God; this passage is unique as of one of the longest single sentences in the Bible, starting in verse 3 and not ending until verse 14.

Directly following verse 3, Paul begins a series of related clauses. We're going to organize them by their object rather than in sequence, focusing on the nature of the various gifts God has given us:

**The Giver (verse 3)****How are the Gifts given? (verses 4-6)****What are the Gifts? (verses 4-6)****Why were they given to us? (verse 6)**

1. What are the differences between the “spiritual blessings in heavenly places” that Paul describes here and the material blessings we often seek after?
2. How does being “chosen from before the foundations of the world” change how you think about the meaning and purpose God might have for your life?
3. Does the doctrine of predestination offend your sense of human freedom? Is it found only here, or in other places in the Bible?
4. We sometimes hear that God “will not violate our free wills.” Is this supported by Scripture? Can you find any examples where God worked through circumstances or communication that redirected a life?
5. As you look back on your life, do you see both free choices you have made, but at the same time, a pattern of purpose in how they have worked out? Are life’s events random?
6. How does Paul’s description of our “adoption” affect or change how you view the purpose of your life and your responsibilities?