

Predestination

Scripture

“Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.” (Eph 1:5-6 NKJV)

Devotion

The idea here is that God predetermined what was to be. [\(see Barns for a fuller explanation\)](#) It says nothing about why He did this. That question would be better asked of verse three in which is declared that He chose us. Inevitably, however, one will be left with the answer: He did it according to the good pleasure of His will. That is the answer given by God.

He does tell us that it is to the praise of the glory of His grace. How is it that our predestination magnifies His grace? Is it because without His act of election we all would have remained in our state of depravity? Is it because the end of this predestination is our position in the Beloved? Clearly the context would demand at least this.

There is one word that should draw our attention in this passage. Do you see the word adoption? It means to legally make someone your child. A young person does not knock on a door and tell the owner of the house he is now the young person's legal guardian. Instead the future father sets his love on the young person and takes the legal steps required to make him his child, sometimes at a great cost. This is what our heavenly Father did. He set His love upon His children, before the foundation of the world, and paid the great cost with His only begotten son, Jesus Christ the Righteous. Now that is grace, glorious grace!

So, take a moment to be thankful for what God has done. Without His grace you would certainly perish. Clearly there are many implications to these great spiritual truths of which many find reason to argue, but could you this day just bow your heart to the Lord of glory and thank Him for adopting you?