

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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Accepted in the Beloved

Ephesians 1:6, "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."

A young man had inherited much money from the death of his rich father. He and his father had been involved in a serious accident. The boy lived.

It so happened that this was a very intelligent and serious young man. He wanted a wife who was equally so. He found as he sought that it was rare to find such a woman.

He had struggled through college and was deep in debt when he got out. But the windfall did not cause him to be foolish with money. Due to the accident, he knew he would be childless. He knew what he was looking for in his wife.

Finally, he found his beloved. She was a young widow who was pregnant. He loved her with great devotion, and repeatedly asked her to marry him. One day she said to him, "Tom, I will accept your proposal of marriage, but we will immediately have a family. We will have to prepare for their entrance into the world."

Tom agreed and as soon as they were married, they began to look for an estate to raise their family.

One day Tom said to Susie, "Every decision we make should be based upon your unborn child's welfare and what we plan for him or her."

Susie agreed and added, "It's for our child's welfare." He proudly agreed. When she found that she was to bare twins, they were elated as they knew they could not have any more. He promised her he would adopt them, and they would be his and hers.

They purchased a large beautiful home on forty acres in the country so that the kids could romp and play and have a few farm animals to help care for so they would learn responsibility. It was a beautiful estate.

They chose a room in the house for a bedroom for a girl and decorated it in a feminine way. They did a boy's décor for a child in case one of them was a boy.

They purchased cribs and prepared for their coming. They were excited to prepare for the children.

They also started a college fund for their children and added to it each dividend check so it would be there when needed.

One day Tom brought home a young stallion to train just in case one of them was a boy. Later, he purchased a mare in case one of the children was a girl.

A playhouse was put in the girl's room and the father's vintage 1957 Chevrolet was placed under wraps for the son when he became of age.

The couple waited expectantly until finally the twins were born. One was a little boy whom they named, John. And one was a little girl, whom they called, Mary. They were one happy family and the young children grew to adulthood to enjoy all that the parents had prepared for them earlier.



QUESTIONS:

- × Did the parents love John and Mary before they were born?
- × Did they predestine that their children would be cared and provided for and educated before they were born?
- × Was it foreordained that the children should be educated?
- × Did the parents have an intention for their children before they were born?
- × Did the father choose them before birth to walk before him in love?
- × Was it not the fact that Tom chose to give all this to them because

they were the children of his beloved?

- * Were the children chosen to inherit through their own merits or by the fact that they were accepted because of his beloved?
- * Did being chosen before birth take away their free will?
- * Could they have run away from the beautiful house and their own room?
- * Could the children have refused to ride the horses?
- * Couldn't the boy have laughed at the 57 Chevy and the girl mocked the playhouse?
- * Could they have refused the college education?

Of course! Yet they were predestined before birth to receive all these privileges and opportunities because they were born to Tom's beloved wife.

Predestination and adoption, and being chosen, is not at all what the religious world makes them out to be.

Before the foundation of the world, God chose us IN Christ, His beloved Son! When we are born again into Christ, He adopts us and predestines us to be holy, without blame, according to the good pleasures of His will and to the praise of His glory.

In Christ we have privileges because we are made acceptable in God's beloved Son. We are redeemed and given the forgiveness of our sins according to the riches of His grace. He abounds toward us because we are in Christ.

Ephesians 1:4-8, "1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. 7 But unto

every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."

He has called us and predestined us to be what He wants us to be, namely conformed to His Son's image. **Romans 8:29**, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Those who believe on Christ are given the power or authority to become the Sons of God, and to be adopted into His family. **John 1:12**, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:"

So all this arguing that is done about predestination, election, and free will is a needless and fruitless debate.

It can be said, He loved us while we were yet sinners. In fact, it may be said that He loved us before we were even born. Before the foundation of the world. He chose that those that believe and come into Christ would become His sons and daughters.

He planned for us, provided for us, and took pity on us, not because we were righteous, but because we are Christ's. If we are Christ's, we are heirs of the promise. We can refuse it or enjoy it. **Galatians 3:29**

This is where free will enters the equation. Live as one chosen to be His child and heir. Be a partaker of the Divine nature. **2 Peter 1:4**