

## Five Reasons God Deserves Our Complete Adoration.

Ephesians 1:1-11

Because he has lavished us with all spiritual blessings needed.

*God...has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. Vs. 3*

- We did not receive a partial instalment of blessings upon belief, but the complete amount of rich spiritual resources. Some accomplished, some yet to be experienced. Colossians 2:10, I Peter 1:3-4
- Note the phrases, "All praise...", "So we praise God..." indicating that God is deserving of our unreserved praise, adoration.

### 1. He cherished and selected us. Vs. 4a

- *God loved us and chose us in Christ*

Explanation: The first and strongest feeling God had for us was love. We are cherished by God. Our creator loves us. Notice he translated this feelings into action. He went from love to choose. Real love is not just a feeling, it results in action. He deliberately selected us to be born once and then be born again.

#### a. Even before he created the universe.

- o *Even before he made the world*

- Explanation: This means that since God's eternal purpose for us is to experience fellowship with Him, we are the reason for the existence of the universe and everything in it. God did not create the earth and then say, "Now what" he purposed fellowship with us and said, "Now what do I have to create to bring this about?" We are elected from eternity past. This does not negate our responsibility to believe.
- We are purposefully planned, sovereignly chosen by God. We are not a mistake, unplanned or a surprise. These truths give meaning and value to our life.
- Illustration: I Peter 1:20, Revelation 13:8b, 17:8b
- Application: Do you realize the universe was made so you could enjoy loving fellowship with God? Think about that the next time you look at a planet.
- Do you realize your life is planned God? That you're existence is not a mistake, accident or surprise?

#### b. So we could fellowship with Him.

- o *To be holy.*

- Explanation: God is holy. This means He is infinitely pure and sinless. Only someone holy can exist in his presence. Only holy beings can fellowship with him. He created us with this in mind.
- Illustration: I Peter 1:16

- Application: Do you realize God's intent from the beginning was fellowship with us in the state of infinite holiness?
- c. To make us blameless in his sight.
  - *and without fault in his eyes.*
    - Explanation: The only way we achieve this standing is through Christ. Faith in Christ places us in a holy and blameless position before God. We are only acceptable to God because of Christ. This phrase reflects the original, prefilled state of man and the state of redeemed people.
    - Illustration: Colossians 1:22
    - Application: Do you view yourself as God sees you through Christ?

## 2. He made us His own. Vs. 4b

- *God decided...to adopt us*

- a. Before we existed.
  - *God decided in advance*
    - Explanation: God's decision to make us his own was decided by Him before we existed on the basis of his predestined love and sovereign choice. Good thing because our sin nature made us incapable of earning God's favor. It made us hopeless and helpless once we were of an accountable age.
    - Illustration: Romans 8:23b
    - Application: Do you realize you were lovingly and graciously chosen by God to be his own before you were born? Are you aware that God's desire for us to know him as our loving Father is so strong, it existed before we did.
- b. By making us his children.
  - *God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family*
    - Explanation. He made us his children, not his hired servants.
    - Illustration. Romans 8:15
    - Application: Do you realize that you're a child of God, not a hired servant. You have the right and privilege of referring to God as Father, Abba.
- c. Because of Jesus Christ.
  - *by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.*
    - Explanation: Jesus Christ is the agent of adoption. Without the work of the Son, we would not know the Father.
    - Illustration: Galatians 4:4-7
    - Application: Do you realize it is only because of Jesus Christ that we have this special standing as children of God? It's only because of God the Son that we know God as Father.

- d. Because it delighted Him.
  - *This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure*
    - Explanation: God is delighted to make us his. It pleases him to make us his children.
    - Illustration: John 15:15 Think of how glad parents are the day they hear the judge say, "This child is now yours." God is just as elated as making us His.
    - Application. Do you realize how glad God is that you are His?

### 3. He paid the price for our release. Vs. 7

- *he purchased our freedom*
  - We were helpless, hopeless slaves of our sin nature.
- a. Because he wanted to give us what we needed most but could not obtain.
  - *...rich in kindness and grace*
    - Explanation: Only through Christ was the price paid for our release from the penalty, power and eventually the presence of sin.
    - Illustration: Romans 3:24
    - Application; Do you know that you're freedom from sin was secured by God?
- b. Through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
  - *with the blood of his Son*
    - Explanation: only the blood of Jesus paid the price for our release.
    - Illustration: I Peter 1:19-20
    - Application: Thank God for sacrificing His Son for your freedom from the power, penalty and eventual presence of sin.
- c. So we could be released guilt and shame.
  - *forgave our sins*
    - Explanation: the result of being redeemed. We are freed from the position of guilt and the burden of shame. We are free because we are forgiven.
    - Illustration: Colossians 1:14
    - Application: Thank God for forgiving your guilt and healing your shame.

### 4. He shared his strategy with us for all humanity. Vs. 8-10

- *God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ*
- a. Because it delights him to do so.
  - *a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure*

- Explanation: It delights God to make his plans known. It clarifies the future and invites us into the present mission.
  - Illustration: Matthew 28:16-20
  - Application: Do you realize God has made the end known from the beginning so we can trust his sovereignty and join his mission?
- b. That Christ will return, rule and reign as our glorious King.
  - *he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ*
    - Explanation: God reveals that Christ came the first time as the suffering servant but will come again as the ruling King. His millennial rule and eternal reign are both in view here.
    - Illustration: Philippians 2:10-11
    - Application: Do you see Christ for who he was (who he is) and who he will be?
- c. That can occur at any moment.
  - *At the right time*
    - Explanation: nothing more needs to occur for God to set in motion the events for the return of Jesus Christ. The phrase, “perhaps today” has more meaning now than ever before.
    - Illustration: Luke 12:35-48
    - Application: Are you ready?

**5. He’s provided guaranteed eternal spiritual riches. Vs. 11**

- *we have received an inheritance from God*
  - Our inheritance is joy filled eternity with the glorious Christ. It’s so certain that it is spoken of as already occurred. Romans 8:17
- a. Simply because we trusted in Jesus Christ and are therefore joined with Him.
  - *because we are united with Christ*
    - Explanation: When we trust Christ we are joined to Christ. What is his becomes ours.
    - Illustration: Romans 6:5
    - Application: Do you see yourself with Christ in eternity because you are in Christ, as a result of trusting Christ?
- b. Because he has the authority make it happen.
  - *he makes everything work out according to his plan.*
    - Explanation: God is sovereign over all the affairs of mankind. He is overseeing all events and shaping them towards his intended outcome. This includes the culmination of the age and his plan for us. Nothing can keep His plans from coming to be.
    - Illustration: Romans 8:28-30, Proverbs 16:4,9

- Application: Do you see the hope of glory as your possession regardless of world events, and your own mistakes?

So let's...

1. Realize the entire solar system was created so God could enjoy fellowship with us. 1.a.
2. Realize how delighted God is to make us his own. 2.d.
3. Realize God freed us from our hopeless, helpless state of captivity to sin. 3.a.

Notes.

1. As you can see, there is an abundance of material generated by this type of study from just eleven verses. Chances are there is more material here than can be taught at one time. It would simply overwhelm your audience. You either have to cut material or make it more than one message. Such is the tension of harvesting the truths of Scripture.
2. The Epistles are the richest type of writing in Scripture. It's why we started here. I wanted you to see the richness of Scripture and not struggle with finding Supporting and Defining Ideas. Different genera of Scripture require a different observational methods. Epistles require looking at every word. Poetry, narratives and prophecy require looking at larger portions of text. We'll explore this in future lessons.