

TITLE AND NUMBER: 218 Being a child of God

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES: Ephesians 1:5-9



He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Christ Jesus, in accordance with his pleasure and will – to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ.

LOOKING FURTHER: Ephesians 1:1-14 ; 2 Peter 3:9 ; Romans 10:13 ; John 16:13-15

What does the Bible passage tell us?

The question is often raised about what the Bible says about being 'predestined' – has God already decided who will be 'saved' and go to heaven, and who will not; or do we have a choice in the matter?

The Bible tells us quite clearly that God wants everyone to come to Him (2 Peter 3:9) and that, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved' (Romans 10:13). When a child is adopted, that child is special because the parent has chosen to welcome them into their family. You are chosen because God really wants you to come to Him; no-one is unwanted, and no-one is wanted any less than anybody else. God determined that every one of us who calls on Him will be welcomed into His family.

Because God knows the future, He also knows who will choose Him and who will reject Him – who will be 'in' and who will be 'out.' As long as we have breath in our bodies, we have the opportunity to make that choice for ourselves.

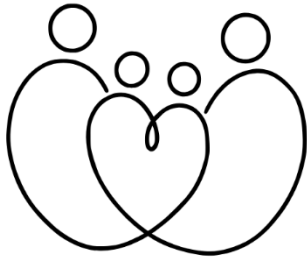
What future awaits us when we invite God into our lives in the person of Jesus Christ? Our passage talks about being adopted into sonship. Paul would have written this letter in Greek, and the word translated to 'sonship' is not gender-specific; the original word means that we are all guaranteed the full privilege of being an heir of God. In the Roman culture when this was written, this was a status only given to the first-born son. But, in Christ, it is promised to each one of us.

Finally, our passage talks about a mystery being made known to us. That seems a contradiction in terms; if something is revealed, it is no longer a mystery. God does not want to be obscure to His children; when we come to Christ, the Holy Spirit will reveal the truth to us (John 16:13-15).

Reflection

- Reflect on the promise that, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' If you have already experienced this, thank God for welcoming you. If you have never asked Jesus into your life, think about doing it now; and then tell a Chaplain what you have done.
- What does it mean for you that you have been 'adopted into sonship' with God? Maybe your childhood experience wasn't good; pray asking the Holy Spirit to show you more of the positives about being a child of God.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

