

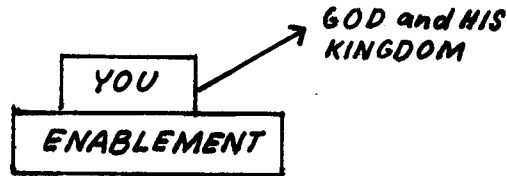
Lesson #4—The Divine Provision Related to the Glory of God

Introduction

- A. If the glory of God is the divine measure for spiritual success—then we must be concerned that our daily life would be characterized by that type of success. We must learn how to live for God's glory.
- B. To consider our daily life in this light immediately forces us to realize we need help. We reach this conclusion, not only because of the teaching of the Scripture, but because of our past failures.
- C. It is a comfort to know that God has made an adequate provision for us. The commands and promises regarding living for the glory of God have not been given us to mock us. God has included us in His plan. He has made provision for us. We can live for His glory.

I. The Divine Provision in Salvation, Ephesians 1:3-6.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. Having **predestinated us** unto the **adoption** of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.



A. The Source of this Provision.

Having predestinated us...according to the good pleasure of His will.

Observation:

1. This whole subject of divine election is a very difficult one. We know so very little about God's sovereign working. We are comforted by this, however, to know that we were chosen by the Father and given to the Lord Jesus Christ (John 17:6-10).
2. It is beyond our comprehension to realize that we have been chosen by God to be included in His redemptive plan to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. The evidence of this is that we have repented of our sin, we have believed the gospel and have received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

B. The Description of this Provision.

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children....

Observation: The term "adoption" refers to "being placed in the position of sonship". This is the goal of predestination—to be brought into a relationship of sonship with God. Every other blessing of the Christian life grows out of this relationship. As an adopted child we have certain "rights" and "privileges". We can call God our Father, we can pray, we can serve Him, and we can live for His glory.

C. The Basis of this Provision.

...by Jesus Christ...to the praise of the glory of His grace.

Observation: The Lord Jesus Christ came into the world as our representative. He bore our penalty and its judgment on the Cross. Through His loving provision, which is called "grace", it is possible for us to be adopted by God. The radical transformation which has come into our lives is beyond imagination. We were once the "enemies of God" (Romans 5:10) but through grace, we have been made sons of God through divine adoption.

D. The Assurance of this Provision.

...wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.

Observation: Through the representative work of the Lord Jesus Christ we have been accepted by God. This is more than simply "acceptable". The term strictly means "favored" or "freely given" and emphasizes the completeness and fullness of divine grace. The believer is a redeemed person. He has been brought into a living relationship with God.

E. The Purpose of this Provision.

To the praise of the glory of His grace....

Observation:

1. All of the above provision is now focused on this one great goal—that we and our daily life should be to the praise of the glory of His grace. What a magnificent privilege and honor to be included in such a program.
2. We begin to understand the meaning of this great purpose when we consider how the glory of God is related to the grace of God. The very provision of grace and all the benefits that flow from grace all magnify the greatness of the divine attributes.

For ye know **the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich. II Corinthians 8:9

But we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that **He by the grace of God should taste death for every man**. Hebrews 2:9

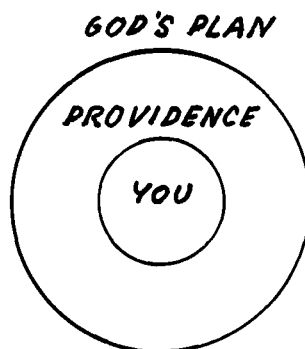
And **God is able to make all grace abound toward you**, that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. II Corinthians 9:8

For **by grace are ye saved through faith** and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8, 9

3. The display of the grace of God in our salvation and daily life reveals the glory of God and this causes Him to be praised. God has won us to Himself so that we may be... "to the praise of the glory of His grace".

II. The Provision in Divine Providence, Ephesians 1:11, 12

In Whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will, That we should be to the **praise of His glory**, who first trusted in Christ.



A. The Relationship Established by this Provision.

In Whom....

Observation: The believer has been brought into a personal relationship with God. One important facet of this spiritual union is that of divine providence. God has promised to watch over us, to

protect us, to direct our lives, to work all things in our life for our good, to supply our need, and to be constantly with us. If this were not enough we understand that all of this is designed for our good and our fulfillment so that we would reflect and display the glory of His bountiful goodness. Our relationship with God is that of providence.

B. The Description of this Provision.

...we have obtained an inheritance....

Observation: The term "inheritance" in this verse refers primarily to that which we have received as believers. The context is stressing the sovereign purpose of God to bring unlimited blessings into the lives of His people and through them to exalt Himself. This reminds us again of that which is of true value—the grace, the will, the purpose of God!

C. The Instruction of this Provision

...predestinated according to the purpose of Him Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.

Observation: Again we see the emphasis to be on God's choice. He has come to us. We have been included in His divine purpose. He is the Lord of the whole earth and "worketh all things after the counsel of His own will". All of this reminds us that we do not belong to ourselves—we belong to God. Our success will be certain if we will choose daily to follow the plan and purpose of God. The Bible is filled with illustrations of the comfort and practicality of this great truth.

And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound and he was there in the prison. **But the Lord was with Joseph** and shewed him mercy and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. Genesis 39:20, 21

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. **But I have prayed for thee**, that thy faith fail not, and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. Luke 22:31, 32

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man, **but God is faithful**, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it. I Corinthians 10:13

D. The Purpose of this Provision.

That we should be to the praise of His glory....

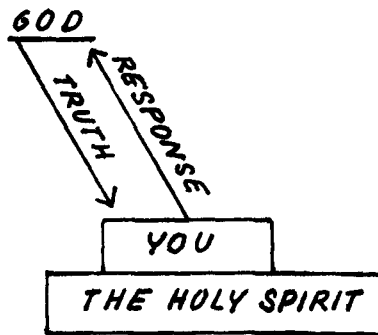
Observation: Now we can see the goal of God's sovereign purpose. He wants to pour out of His blessing upon us so that "...we should be to the praise of His glory". This makes every facet of the Christian life worthwhile. This is the only correct perspective in which to evaluate and understand our trials, problems and temptations. We must constantly keep in mind that there is a greater purpose and plan in our lives than that which meets the eye. Too often we are so limited in how we value our daily life. We must learn to cooperate with God more fully!

III. The Provision in the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 1: 13, 14.

In Whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the work of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.

A. The Basis of this Provision.

In Whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth....



Observation: Here we are reminded when all of this divine provision of grace and providence started to flow practically into our lives—it was when we, by the grace of God, started to respond to God through His Word. It all began with the New Birth. We were led of God to trust Him—as a person—on the basis of His Holy Word.

B. The Evidence of this Provision.

...believed....

Observation: Many times we question whether or not we are in a right relationship with God and whether we have the enablement of the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The test and answer is found in the meaning of the word "believed". If we have chosen to respond to God, to repent, to believe the gospel, and to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, then, we are the recipients of all of this divine enablement. It may be that we have not learned how to practice and experience the grace of God but it is all ours legally. Our act of believing is an evidence of God working in us. Faith is traced back to God's grace in the Bible (Ephesians 2:8-10).

C. The Description of this Provision.

...ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise...the earnest....

Observation: The gracious work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is here summarized in this verse under the two words "sealed" and "earnest". The former indicates three great truths. The believer, in being "sealed" is (1) confirmed as genuine, (2) marked as God's property, and (3) rendered secure. The presence of the Holy Spirit and all of this great work is the "earnest" or pledge of all that is in store for the believer. All of the other facets of the work of the Holy Spirit grows out of the relationship indicated by these two words.

1. He has gifted us for service, I Cor. 12:7-11.
2. He enables us to pray, Romans 8:26.
3. He enables us to enjoy spiritual things, Gal. 5:22, 23.
4. He has promised to guide us, John 16:13.
5. He leads us to assurance, Romans 8:15, 16.
6. He leads us into a deeper walk of fellowship and holiness, Romans 8:13, 14.

D. The Purpose of this Provision.

...unto the praise of His glory....

Observation: The attributes of God are manifested in our daily life through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The power of God's grace has come into our lives and we are different. We have a different authority, a different motivation, and a different goal in life. The Holy Spirit indwells us so that all of this will become more and more clear. He is our divine enablement to put all of this into practice.

Conclusion:

- A. If what we have seen in this lesson is the divine purpose for us—and it is—then we must learn how to live accordingly. We belong to God, He has chosen us, and He has made every provision for our daily success.
- B. These verses also present us with the perspective of eternity. We must not allow our day by day circumstances and problems to cloud this central purpose of life. We must weigh everything in the light of God's divine plan—to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.

