Introduction

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

The place where Paul begins his praise is with God’s sovereign choice.

This is the doctrine of election. Before the worlds were made, God chose a people who would be his children for all of eternity.

How do election and man’s free will fit together?

It’s called an antimony. An antimony contains 2 apparently mutually exclusive truths which must be held simultaneously.

We need to hold onto both and let the Scripture speak, even when we can’t fully explain it.

I. God chose us to be holy. Verse 4

Holiness has two sides to it.

• There is a holiness we have already because of what Christ has done for us.
• There is a holiness we are to live out in this life.

Who are the elect?

They are those who desire to be right with God.

“Everyone who has this hope in him, purifies himself just as he is pure.” I John 3:3

II. God chose us to be his children. Verse 5

“In love, he predestined us to be adopted as his sons and daughters.”

God’s choosing is not done impersonally or arbitrarily.

It is done in love, through Jesus Christ, and in accordance with his pleasure and will.

“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” Romans 8:15-17

Under Roman law, an adopted son enjoyed the same privileges as a son by birth.

III. God chose us to bring him glory. Verse 6

The Westminster Confession states that the chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

When we understand all that he has done for us in Christ, we want to praise him.

All of the blessings God has given us in Christ are not because we deserve them or are better than anyone else, but because of his love and his grace.

It brings him great joy.

Conclusion

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” I Peter 2:9

We are called to be holy.

We are called to be his children.

We are called to worship.