

Ephesians: From Death to Life  
Made for Praise  
Ephesians 1:3-14

Humanity has never had a problem expressing praise. We can go to a concert and find people singing along with artist. Sports fans exalt the virtues of their favorite teams, investing in tickets and merchandise and adjusting their schedules to be able to attend the games. We praise our favorite binge-worthy TV series, favorite breakfast places, and even our favorite fast food chicken sandwich. We praise things because we were made to praise. But do we praise the One from whom all blessings flow?

We praise the Triune God because we were chosen by the Father.

1. Election is a spiritual mystery that we embrace with tension.
2. Election provides a framework for understanding God's attributes.
3. Election still requires personal belief in the gospel.
4. Election has as its goal, our holiness and adoption.

John Piper has said that mission exists because there are places where worship doesn't exist. Humanity was made for praise and it is our responsibility to show the world the One who is worthy of our praise. God doesn't just adopt us and make us holy so that we can sit back and enjoy our new status. He makes us holy so that we can worship Him properly, and He adopts us into His family to entrust us with His gospel. We have been chosen, not just for salvation, but for a mission: to take the gospel to our city and ultimately to the nations.

### Reflection

Go back and read Ephesians 1:3-14 and think about what this passage says about worship. We can get caught up in studying the details of doctrines it contains but think about how these doctrines should lead us or move us to praise God. How does this passage contribute to your understanding of the Trinity? Why do you think the doctrine of election is often described in negative terms? Why should it lead us to praise God? What changes in your worship and mission need to take place as a result of a better understanding of the doctrine of adoption?