**February 12, 2017**  **“To Adoption as Sons”**  **Ephesians 1:4-6a**

Prior to the New Year, I was contemplating on what would be our theme for the year 2017 here at Osseo Community Church. In 2016, we started off in a study of the Apostle’s Creed and how it provided for us a synopsis of what we as Christians not only confess as truth but also of what we as Christians believe the Bible teaches about the incredible plan of salvation God has instituted on our behalf.

It occurred to me, that while we might be able to recite the Creed and perhaps even defend many of the aspects of that confession, many Christians struggle with the application of God’s plan of salvation in their lives. This results in our questioning of our salvation in Christ primarily because we so often focus on our failures to live to an unattainable standard… namely… perfection. How many of us haven’t sighed deeply within ourselves over our own failures, desiring to figuratively throw up our hands in defeat and declare…. what is the use? I can’t live this Christian life… why even try?

It is precisely because of this attitude we are studying the Book of Ephesians in 2017. I really believe if we will take the time to allow the truths of the Book of Ephesians to reign in our hearts, we will walk this Christian life with an attitude of incredulity of the Love and Wisdom of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Our attitude will not be that we cannot believe that God love us, but rather because of what He has determined before the “foundation of the earth” we stand with our mouths open, so to speak, of the awesomeness of who God is and what He has in mind for us.

1. Ephesians 1:4-6a
   1. Chose us in Him
      1. “in Him” mentioned 27 times or more in this book
      2. We cannot ever lose sight of what God the Father
         1. Has chosen for us in Christ
   2. When did this happen?
      1. “Before the foundation of the earth
         1. Why then?
            1. This plan of God
            2. If all of Him and none of us

“To the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:6a, 12, 14)

1. Predestination or Divine Election
   1. Three aspects of election in the Bible
      1. Necessary for us to understand all three
         1. Theocratic…
            1. Deuteronomy 7:6… He chose Israel

Not based on anything they had done or would do

Romans 9:6

“many are called… but few are chosen”

* + - 1. Vocational election
         1. Samuel, Jeremiah, Samson
         2. 12 disciples

12 called to be disciples

11 chosen for salvation

* + - 1. Salvational election
         1. John 6:44
         2. John 6:37… “the one who comes to Me… I will certainly not cast out”

Anybody can come

* 1. Romans 8: 29
     1. Golden chain
     2. Remember vs 29 follows vs 28
        1. “who are the called” before… “He foreknew?”
     3. Let’s not get lost in the weeds here
        1. “Cain knew his wife and she bore him a son”
        2. Mary… “how can this be since I know no man?”
        3. “I know my sheep and they know my voice”
           1. Implies an intimate knowledge of that person
  2. Foreknowledge is simply this…
     1. Predetermining a love relationship
     2. God decided to love you and me “before the foundation of the world”

What does that do for your mindset when you consider your walk with God? Paul a former blasphemer, persecutor of the Church is writing this passage in Ephesians and he is absolutely stunned at the love of God shed abroad to sinners “before the foundation of the world.”

1. Why has He predestined us?
   1. Vs 4…that we would be holy… “hagios”
      1. Set apart for His glory
   2. Vs 4… that we would be blameless
      1. That is certainly not me and I know for certain it is not you???
   3. Stop right there!!!
      1. Remember vs 4a?
         1. Chosen “in Him”
         2. Not chosen on your own merit…
      2. Positionally in the mind and sight of God we are “in Christ”
         1. His holiness is my holiness
         2. His blamelessness is my blamelessness
         3. His spotlessness is my spotlessness
         4. His absolute righteousness is my absolute righteousness
2. To adoption as sons
   1. Into His family
      1. Not as servants
         1. But as sons
            1. Romans 8:14-18

Vs 16… that we are the children of God

* 1. Adoption
     1. Will all to that child
     2. Give them all you have
        1. Cannot give them your nature
        2. But that is exactly what God has given to us
        3. Vs 15… daddy… my dear Father

John 14:1-3

I am preparing a place for you… “in my Father’s house”