

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT
(Part 15)

(Monday – 02/16/09 – Pastor Pete Norris)

“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.” **(Ephesians 1:5)**

Nothing defeats the good efforts and satisfaction of something done for us like the discovery that it was done with a bad attitude. When we learn that someone did something for us because they were forced to, or they did it grumbling through the whole process, we take no pleasure in what they did for us. There is no joy in this kind of “good deed,” and we wind up wishing they had not done anything for us. Paul is assuring us that God adopted us “according to the pleasure of his will.” If God had not taken pleasure in us, our salvation would have become nothing more than a mandatory rescue mission.

We would still have been delivered, but no intimate relationship with our Deliverer would have occurred. There was great potential for God to take this route. We were an undone people who had repeatedly rejected His offers of love. Our rebellion had no effects, however, on His commitment to save us. The decision had already been made in eternity past for one reason only, it pleased Him.

The Greek word for “will” used here is thelema, “a desire which proceeds from one’s heart or emotions.” I cannot imagine what it is about us that would cause God to desire us and to derive pleasure from thinking about being good to us. He was pleased about our being saved long before He actually saved us! Before we arrived on the scene, God the director knew exactly who was going to play what part in His extravaganza of life on earth. God’s will for us is intimately born from the joy He takes in us. He has predestined us to be His child, the apple of His eye, and He has done this because it was the desire of His heart and because it gave Him the utmost pleasure.

You please Him
Pastor Pete