

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

(Monday – 01/26/09 – Dr. 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 effects and satisfaction of something done for us like discovering 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 wish they had not involved with 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 effect; 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 the lema, “a desire which proceeds from ones heart or emotions.” I cannot imagine what it is about us that would cause God to desire us and to derive pleasure from just 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. An actress might go to an audition thinking that she is trying out for a part in a play. And when she gets that part she may think that she got it totally on her own merits and acting skill. What a surprise it is for her to learn that the director knew precisely who and what he was looking for. He knew long before the auditions took place what kind of person it would take to play the part.

He knew the personality, look, and characteristics required. She didn’t win the part- she was preselected for the part. She simply pursued and said, “yes” to the part that had already been given to her. 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.

In His good pleasure
Pastor Pete