

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

We will begin a new series on the study of the book of Ephesians. Paul built the church at Ephesus and so he had a close relationship with its members. Unlike other letters Paul wrote, it does not mention any obvious problem in the church. Paul's intents were to encourage the members and strengthen their faith. This letter tells us a lot about God's plans and purposes in our salvation. I encourage everyone to read this book in your free time. You can read a small section at a time. Put yourself in the passage, and be thankful to God's work for you. There are six chapters in the book. The first three help us know God's truth. I call this unit "Believing in God's Grace." The last three motivate us to apply God's truth. I call the section "Be Living in God's Grace." God's Word does not only enrich our knowledge. It also empowers us to live out our new life. Our focus today is on how and why God saved us. Paul tells us the roles of the Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit in our salvation. We need to spend a few minutes to talk about the Trinity. The Bible tells us that there is only one true God. He expresses Himself in three distinct entities. Theologians call them three persons. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are equal in their glory, power and authority. However, they is one and not three Gods. This truth challenges our logic. I am the husband of my wife, the father of my two sons and a son of my parents. But I am only one individual, not three persons. In comparison, God can exist in three persons at the same time. Ultimately, we must humbly submit to God's wisdom. We receive the Trinity as a truth, much like we affirm that God created the universe from nothing, Jesus was born of a virgin and He rose from the dead. We accept these and many other truths by faith.

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 蒙父神揀選 Selected by the Father (v. 3-6)

First of all, Paul tells us that we are saved because we are selected by the Father. Look at verses 4-5 again: **4 ...he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.** We can ask a few questions about God's selection based on these two verses. First, **when** did it happen? It occurred before the foundation of the world. In other words, God selected those He planned to save before His creation. In verse 5, we see the word "predestined." Christians have different views about predestination. Some people think that God selected those He knew ahead of time will respond to His calling. Other believers reason that predestination takes away our freedom. It is unfair to those whom God did not select too! The fact is that God selects us; we do not select Him. You are saved today because God had selected you. If the doctrine of predestination does not humbles us, nothing can. We should forever be thankful to God. He made His selection before creation. Second, we can ask **what** happens when God saves us? First, God gives us a new nature. Verse 4 says we become holy and blameless. Both words point to the Old Testament ritual. Before a priest performed a ceremony, there was a cleansing process. The person and the tools are then said to be sanctified, or made holy. Likewise, God makes us holy by setting us apart from the sinful world. Then the word blameless can be used to describe the animals to be sacrificed. They must be without blemish.

They cannot be missing an ear or crippled in one leg. Similarly, when God saves us, He makes us sinless. God does not take away 30 years of my age, or add some hair back on my head. But He made me blameless. No one can bring back my sins and accuse me anymore. Not only does God give us a new nature, He also gives us a new status. Verse 5 says God adopts us as His sons. Of course, it also includes daughters. Adopted children have the same legal status as biological kids. I used to know a couple who has one biological daughter. Besides, they adopted four girls from China. Once I cited this Ephesians passage when talking to one of the girls. I said: “See, all Christians are adopted by God into His family, just like how you became a daughter of your current parents.” Paul tells us the when and what of God’s selection. Next, we can ask **why** God selects us. Verse 5 says it is because of the purpose of God’s will. The word “purpose” here can be translated as joy, intention or desire. God saves us because it makes Him happy. Some of you like shopping, streaming videos, or certain food because you enjoy doing it. Similarly, it brings God much joy to bring people into His Kingdom. Why does God’s selection mean so much? Let me suggest a few reasons. First, we are **precious** to God. He restores our title as His children. We are not assigned an ID number in heaven. The world evaluates you by your GPA, resume or appearance. But God treats you as a prince or princess. Second, God makes us **pure**. Believers are sinless in God’s sight. By relying on God’s power, we can sin less and less in daily life. Do not be fooled by Satan that we are helpless to temptations. We must make up our mind and obey God. Third, God has a **purpose** in us. Becoming God’s children is a glorious thing. We should not be shy to tell others about Him. Engaged ladies cannot wait to show off their ring. They have been promoted from a girl-friend to a fiancée. We are transformed from sinners to saints. We should witness God’s grace and draw people to Him.

## 2. 被聖子拯救 Saved by the Son (v. 7-12)

Believers are selected by God. Secondly, they are saved by the Son. Here, Paul elaborates how Jesus blesses us when He saves us.

### A. 免去過去的罪債 Jesus Saves Us from Past Condemnation

First, Jesus saves us from our past condemnation. Read verses 7-8: **7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.** We find two words that describe salvation. “Redemption” is a term used in slave trade. Slaves are held in bondage. They can only be set free if someone pays a ransom. The Bible says we are slaves in sin when we do not know Jesus. I can use a classic example to prove it. If I say: do not think of an elephant! What is the first thing that comes to your mind? An elephant! We cannot fully control our speech and actions, much like we cannot restrain our thoughts. Worse still, we enjoy sinning. We steal God’s glory, we brag about our achievements, and we harbor pride and jealousy in our mind. But thanks to Jesus. He died on the cross to redeem us. In doing so, He forgave our sins. The word “forgiveness” makes people think of the Old Testament sacrifice. An animal died on behalf of worshippers. God’s wrath and penalty on people are removed temporarily. The ritual points to Jesus’ death on the cross for us. Nowadays, we use the term scapegoat to describe someone who is punished for another person. For example, the CEO of a company is fired due to a scandal. This will quench the anger of the public. Likewise, God made Jesus a scapegoat for us. Jesus was punished even though He was innocent. Through Jesus’ sacrifice, God lavished huge grace on us. It is like

pouring water into a cup until it overflows. When you order a coffee at any restaurant in Hong Kong, people will fill it up to the brim. More than likely, the waiter will spill some coffee on the saucer when he brings the cup to you. I will have an urge to pour the spilled coffee back to the cup. God is never stingy like me. His grace is abundant. His name be praised!

### B. 等待將來的復和 Jesus Saves Us for Future Consummation

Jesus does not only saves us from past condemnation. He also saves us for future consummation. Look at verses 9-10: **9 Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.** God's salvation plan used to be a mystery to people. That Greek word means something that is hidden until it is revealed. Think of it like an award ceremony. A committee had decided the winners. But the results will not be announced until the presentation. God had foretold His salvation plan in the Old Testament. But those prophecies were like cryptic language to the Jews. Everything became clear after Jesus rose from the dead. We are much blessed today because we have the whole Bible. We know that God does not only intend to save our souls. He will save the whole world. Since Adam and Eve rebelled against God, harmony was turned into chaos. People pollute the environment, they oppress the weak and they use power for their own gain. Education, law and justice are not permanent solutions. Ultimately, God will right all the wrongs. Theologians call it consummation. Jesus will return and He will judge the world. He will bring order back from disorder. The last chapter of the Bible depicts scenes like the Garden of Eden all over again. God will rule the world with righteousness. There will be no more sin, suffering, disease or death. God will sustain people from the river of life and the tree of life. Today, we grieve about sins. We mourn about our losses. But our hope is in eternity. Knowing that we will be with God forever should energize us to live today with joy. Our missions should be helping others know God so that they will spend eternity with God too.

### 3. 受聖靈確認 Sealed by the Spirit (v. 13-14)

Christians are selected by the Father and saved by the Son. Thirdly, they are sealed by the Spirit. Verses 13-14 tell us the works of the Holy Spirit in our salvation: **13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.**

#### A. 歸屬的印記 Seal of Possession

First, the mark of the Holy Spirit is a seal of possession. Verse 13 implies that we are sealed by Him the moment we believed in Jesus. The seal validates ownership. Some book-readers put a stamp on the books they own. If you are a believer, the Holy Spirit puts a stamp in your heart to show His possession of your life. Once we are sealed, the Holy Spirit will stay in us forever. Jesus assures us in John 14:15-16 – **15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever.”** Jesus calls the Holy Spirit a Helper. Your Bible may translate the title as “Comforter” or “Counselor.” The picture is a consultant standing alongside and defends for us. The Holy Spirit actively works in believers' life. Among other things, the Bible lists the following work of the Spirit. (1) He confirms our salvation (Romans 8:16).

(2) He helps us know the Bible (1 Corinthians 2:12). (3) He strengthens us to live in the truth (Galatians 5:16). (4) He convicts us when we sin (John 16:8). (5) He gives us spiritual gifts to serve in the church (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). (6) He provides courage and wisdom to share the gospel (Acts 4:8-13). In sum, the Spirit fosters our maturity in the faith. The question is: do you hear the voice of the Holy Spirit? It is not a mystical experience. The Holy Spirit will never speak anything that is contrary to the Bible. The more we read God's Word, the more it will retain in our hearts. The Holy Spirit will remind us those truths when we make decisions or face temptations. It is similar to kids listening to their parents, soldiers following their commanding officers and employees submitting to their bosses. The Holy Spirit is not a cruel master. We obey Him because He loves us. Everything He asks of us is for our good.

## B. 保障的印記 Seal of Protection

The mark of the Holy Spirit is not only a seal of possession. It is also a seal of protection. Paul tells us in verse 14 that the seal is “the guarantee of our inheritance.” The picture is like putting a deposit when you buy a house or a car. By signing a contract, you promise to make monthly payment until the loan is paid off. People may change their mind but God will definitely follow through His promise to us. Once we are saved, we are forever saved. We did not and could not do anything to earn our salvation. We will not lose our salvation by doing anything either. Paul affirms in Romans 8:30 – **And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.** Some theologians call this a “golden chain” where one link is connected to the next. God will call those He predestined to save. Those He calls will be justified, meaning their sins will be forgiven. Then those God have justified will be with Him in glory. No force or factor will cut off our relationship with God once we are saved. In the rest of this Romans passage, Paul puts a long list of things we may go through in life: persecution, sickness and other forms of hardship. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Not even sin can undo our salvation. Very often we can be weak in our faith. We may feel that God is away when we face difficulties. We are ashamed of ourselves when we rebel against God. We have doubts when people attack our faith. The Holy Spirit lives in us and He guarantees that we belong to God. We can pray for God's protection when we run into those situations. We ask God for forgiveness and assurance. Our feelings often change but God is faithful forever.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

It is all God's grace from start to finish in our salvation. We are selected by the Father, saved by the Son and sealed by the Spirit. God takes the initiative in all three steps and we are recipients of His blessings. We do not know what factors God uses in His choice. The truth of predestination does not take away our gospel effort. We should share the gospel to people, since we do not know which seeker friends God had chosen. Why does God spend so much effort to save us pitiful sinners? Paul repeats the answer in verses 6, 12 and 14. It is “to the praise of his glory.” Everything God does is for His glory. He desires to reveal His glory in our daily life too. However, we often bring shame and not fame to God's name. We will stumble and fall. But God always gives us a second chance to return to Him. We receive His grace when we are saved. We need His grace daily as we walk with Him, until we see Him in glory.

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

我們開始一個新的系列來學習以弗所書。保羅在以弗所建立了教會，因此他與教會成員有著密切的關係。與其他保羅的書信不同，這封信並沒有提到教會中任何明顯的問題。保羅的目的是鼓勵信徒並堅固他們的信心。這封信告訴我們很多關於神拯救我們的計劃和目的。我鼓勵大家在空閒時間閱讀這本書。你可以每次閱讀一小部分。把自己放在經文中，感謝神為你做的事情。這卷書共有六章。前三章幫助我們認識神的真理。我將這個單元稱為「領受神的恩典」。後面三章鼓勵我們應用神的真理。我將這一部分稱為「活出神的恩典」。神的話語不僅豐富我們的知識，它也使我們幫助我們過新的生活。今天我們的重點是看神如何以及為何拯救我們。保羅告訴我們天父、耶穌基督和聖靈在我們的救恩中所扮演的角色。我們需要花一點時間來理解三位一體。聖經告訴我們，只有一位真神。祂以三個不同的個體來表現自己。神學家稱他們為三個位格。聖父、聖子和聖靈在榮耀、能力和權柄上是同等的。然而，只有一位神，而不是三位神。這個真理挑戰我們的邏輯。我是我太太的丈夫，我兩個兒子的父親，也是我父母的兒子。但我只是一個人，不是三個人。相比之下，神可以同時以三個位格存在。最終，我們必須謙卑地順服神的智慧。我們接受三位一體為真理，就像我們相信神從零創造宇宙萬物，耶穌由童女所生，並且祂從死裡復活一樣。我們憑信心接受這些和許多其他真理。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 蒙父神揀選 Selected by the Father (v. 3-6)

首先，保羅說我們得救是因為我們蒙父神所揀選。請看 4-5 節：**4 ...神從創立世界以前，在基督裏揀選了我們，使我們在他面前成為聖潔，無有瑕疵；5 又因愛我們，就按着自己的意旨所喜悅的，預定我們藉着耶穌基督得兒子的名分。**我們可以根據這兩節經文來問一些關於神的揀選的問題。首先，神在**什麼時候**揀選人？保羅說神在創造世界之前就決定了祂要拯救的人。在第 5 節中，我們看到「預定」這個字。基督徒對預定論有不同的看法。有些人認為神揀選的是那些祂預先知道會回應祂呼召的人。其他信徒認為預定剝奪了我們的自由。他們認為這對神沒有揀選的人來說也是不公平的！事實上，是神揀選我們；不是我們揀選祂。今天你能得救，是因為神預先揀選了你。如果預定論不能讓我們謙卑下來，那就沒有任何事情能讓我們謙卑了。我們應該永遠感謝神。祂在創造世界之前就做出了選擇。其次，我們可以問當神拯救我們後產生**什麼結果**？首先，神賜給我們新的性情。第 4 節說我們成為聖潔，沒有瑕疵。這兩個字都指向舊約的禮儀。祭司舉行儀式之前，必須有一個潔淨的過程。然後，人和器具都成為聖潔了。同樣，神把我們從罪惡的世界中分別出來，使我們變得聖潔。另外，「沒有瑕疵」這個用詞是用來形容那些被獻上的動物。牠們必須是沒有瑕疵的。

他們不能缺少一個耳朵或一條腿殘廢。同樣，當神拯救我們時，祂使我們變為無罪。神並沒有使我年輕 30 歲，祂也沒有增加我的頭髮。但是神使我沒有瑕疵。沒有人能再提出我的罪來指控我了。神不只賜給我們新的性情，祂也賜給我們新的身份。第 5 節說神收養我們成為祂的兒子。當然，這也包括女兒。收養的孩子與親生孩子具有同等的法律地位。我曾經認識一對夫婦，他們有一個親生女兒。此外，他們還從中國領養了四個女兒。有一次我和其中一個女孩談話時引用了這段以弗所書的經文。我說：「妳看，所有基督徒都是被神收養進入祂的家，就像妳成為現在父母的女兒一樣。」保羅告訴我們神揀選的時間和結果。接下來，我們可以問神**為何揀選**我們。第 5 節說神是按着自己的意旨所喜悅的去做事。「喜悅」這個字也可以翻譯為目的或願望。其中的意思是，神拯救我們，因為這使祂喜樂。一些人喜歡購物、看連續劇或吃某些食物，因為他們喜歡那些事情。同樣，神帶領人進入祂的國度也讓祂喜樂。為什麼神的揀選如此重要？讓我提出幾個原因。首先，神看我們是**寶貴**的。祂恢復我們作為祂兒女的名份。我們在天堂裡並不是被分配一個身份證號碼。世界透過你的成績、履歷或外表來評價你。但神看待你就像王子或公主。第二，神使我們**純潔**。在神的眼中信徒是無罪的。如果我們依靠神，我們在日常生活中可以減少犯罪。因此不要被撒但欺騙，以為我們對試探是無能為力的。我們必須下定決心並順服神。第三，神在我們身上有一個**目的**。成為神的兒女是一件榮耀的事。我們不應該不好意思向別人介紹神。已經訂婚的女孩子會迫不及待地炫耀她們的戒指。她們從女朋友升級為未婚妻。我們從罪人轉變為聖徒。我們應該見證神的恩典並吸引人們歸向祂。

## 2. 被聖子拯救 Saved by the Son (v. 7-12)

信徒是蒙父神所揀選的。其次，他們是被聖子拯救的。在這裡，保羅說明了耶穌拯救我們時給我們的祝福。

### A. 免去過去的罪債 Jesus Saves Us from Past Condemnation

首先，耶穌免去我們過去的罪債。請讀第 7-8 節：**7 我們藉這愛子的血得蒙救贖，過犯得以赦免，乃是照他豐富的恩典。8 這恩典是神用諸般智慧聰明，充充足足賞給我們的。**我們在這裡看到兩個描述救恩的用詞。「救贖」是奴隸買賣中使用的術語。奴隸失去自由。必須有人付贖金，他們才能被釋放。聖經說，當我們不認識耶穌時，我們是罪的奴僕。我可以用一個經典的例子來證明這一點。如果我說：不要去想一頭大象！你首先想到的是什麼東西？一頭大象！我們無法完全控制自己的言語和行為，就像我們無法控制自己的思想一樣。更糟的是，我們喜歡犯罪。因此我們偷取神的榮耀，我們吹噓自己的成就，我們心裡藏著驕傲和嫉妒。但感謝耶穌，祂為了救贖我們而死在十字架上。藉著這樣做，祂赦免了我們的罪。「赦免」這個字讓人想起舊約的獻祭。一隻動物為參與禮儀的人而死。神暫時消除了對人的怒氣和懲罰。這個儀式指向耶穌為我們死在十字架上。如今，我們稱呼那些頂替別人受懲罰的人為「代罪羔羊」。例如，一家公司的總裁因醜聞而被解僱。這樣做是為了平息公眾的憤怒。同樣，神讓耶穌成為我們的代罪羔羊。雖然耶穌是無辜的，但是祂還是受到了懲罰。藉

著耶穌的犧牲，神賜給我們豐豐富富的恩典。這就像將水倒入杯子直至溢出來。當你在香港的任何一家餐廳點一杯咖啡時，人們都會把杯子裝滿。當侍應把杯子遞給你時，很可能會把一些咖啡灑在碟子上。我便會有衝動，想把灑出來的咖啡倒回杯子裡。神從來不會像我那麼小器。祂的恩典是豐富的。祂的名配得讚美！

## B. 等待將來的復和 Jesus Saves Us for Future Consummation

耶穌不僅將我們從過去的罪債中拯救出來。祂也為了將來的復和而拯救我們。請看 9-10 節：**9 都是照他自己所預定的美意，叫我們知道他旨意的奧秘，10 要照所安排的，在日期滿足的時候，使天上、地上、一切所有的都在基督裏面同歸於一。**神的拯救計劃曾經是一個奧秘。這個希臘字是指被隱藏的東西，直到它被揭露出來。就好像一個頒獎典禮。評審委員會已經決定了得獎人，但結果要等到典禮才會公佈。神在舊約中就預言了祂的救贖計劃。但這些預言對猶太人來說就像是密碼。直到耶穌從死裡復活後，一切都變得清晰了。今天我們非常有福氣，因為我們擁有整本聖經。我們知道神不只是一定要拯救我們的靈魂。有一天祂要拯救整個世界。自從亞當和夏娃背叛神之後，和諧就變成了混亂。人們污染環境，壓迫弱者，為了個人己益操縱權力。教育、法律和施法制度並不是永久的解決方法。最終，神會糾正所有的錯誤。神學家稱之為復和。耶穌會再來，祂要審判世界。祂將使混亂恢復秩序。聖經的最後一章描述伊甸園再次出現的場景。神將以公義統治世界。不再有罪惡、痛苦、疾病或死亡。神會用生命河和生命樹來供應人的需要。今天，我們為罪感到憂傷，我們對損失的人或事覺得難過。但我們的盼望是在永恆。知道我們將永遠與神同在，這應該激勵我們以喜樂的心活在今天。我們的使命應該是幫助其他人認識神，讓他們也能與神共度永恆。

## 3. 受聖靈確認 Sealed by the Spirit (v. 13-14)

基督徒是蒙父神的揀選並且被聖子所拯救的。第三，他們也受到聖靈的確認。第 13-14 節告訴我們聖靈在救恩中的工作：**13 你們既聽見真理的道，就是那叫你們得救的福音，也信了基督，既然信他，就受了所應許的聖靈為印記。14 這聖靈是我們得基業的憑據，直等到神之民被贖，使他的榮耀得着稱讚。**

### A. 歸屬的印記 Seal of Possession

首先，聖靈的印記是一個歸屬的印記。第 13 節暗示我們在相信耶穌的那一刻起就接受了聖靈的印記。印記證明了擁有權。有些愛看書人會在他們買的書上蓋上印章。如果你是信徒，聖靈就在你心裡蓋上印記，表示祂擁有你的生命。一旦我們受了印記，聖靈就會永遠住在我們裡面。耶穌在約翰福音 14:15-16 向我們保證：**15 「你們若愛我，就必遵守我的命令。16 我要求父，父就另外賜給你們一位保惠師，叫他永遠與你們同在。」**耶穌稱聖靈為保惠師。祂好像一位站在我們身邊並為我們辯護的顧問。聖靈在信徒的生命中積極工作。聖經列出聖靈以下的工作。(1) 祂確認我們的救恩（羅馬書 8:16）。(2) 祂幫助我們理解聖經（哥林多前書 2:12）。(3) 祂加添我們力量，使我們

活在真理中（加拉太書 5:16）。(4) 當我們犯罪時，祂責備我們（約翰福音 16:8）。(5) 祂賜給我們屬靈恩賜，讓我們在教會中事奉（哥林多前書 12:7-11）。(6) 祂供應我們勇氣和智慧去傳福音（使徒行傳 4:8-13）。總之，聖靈幫助我們靈命成熟。問題是：你聽到聖靈的聲音嗎？這並不是一種神秘的經驗。聖靈絕對不會說違背聖經的話。我們越去讀神的話語，那些經文就會留在我們心中。當我們做決定或面對試探時，聖靈就會提醒我們那些真理。情形就像孩子聽父母的話，士兵聽從指揮官，員工聽從老闆的話。但聖靈並不是一個殘酷的主人。我們服從祂，因為祂愛我們。祂對我們的一切要求都是為了我們的好處。

## B. 保障的印記 Seal of Protection

聖靈的印記不只是歸屬的印記，它也是保障的印記。保羅在第 14 節告訴我們，聖靈是「我們得基業的憑據」。這就像你買房子或買車時先付頭期款。然後你簽訂合約，承諾每月付費，直到還清貸款。人可能會改變主意，但神一定會履行祂對我們的應許。我們一旦得救，就永遠得救了。我們沒有做任何事也無法做任何事來賺取救恩。我們也不會因為做了什麼事而失去救恩。保羅在羅馬書 8:30 肯定這一點：**預先所定下的人又召他們來；所召來的人又稱他們為義；所稱為義的人又叫他們得榮耀。**一些神學家稱這個真理為「金鍊子」，一環連接另一環。神呼召那些祂預定要拯救的人。祂所呼召的人將被稱義，意思是神會赦免他們的罪。然後，那些被神稱為義的人就會永遠與神在榮耀裡。當我們得救之後，任何力量和因素都無法切斷我們與神的關係。在羅馬書第 8 章的後半部分，保羅列出了一些我們在生活中可能經歷的事情：信仰迫害、疾病和其他困難。保羅說沒有任何事物能使我们與神的愛隔絕。連罪也無法奪走我們的救恩。有時候我們的信心會軟弱。當我們遇到困難時，我們可能會覺得神遠離我們。當我們沒有聽從神的話之時，我們會感到羞愧。當人們攻擊我們的信仰時，我們會產生懷疑。聖靈住在我們裡面，保證我們是屬於神的。當我們遇到這些情況時，我們可以祈求神的保護。我們也可以請求神的饒恕和保證。我們的感覺常常會改變，但神是永遠信實的。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

從始至終，我們的得救完全是神的恩典。我們蒙父神揀選，被聖子拯救，並且受聖靈確認。神在這三個步驟都採取主動，我們是接受祂祝福的人。我們不知道神以什麼條件來揀選得救的人。預定論的真理並沒有取代我們傳福音的本份。我們應該向人們分享福音，因為我們不知道神揀選了哪些人。為什麼神要花那麼多工夫來拯救我們這些可憐的罪人呢？保羅在第 6、12 和 14 節中重複了答案。一切都是要「使祂的榮耀得著稱讚」。神所做的所有事情都是為了祂的榮耀。祂也渴望我們在日常生活中彰顯祂的榮耀。但是，我們常常為神的名帶來羞辱，而不是光彩。我們會犯罪跌倒。但神總是給我們機會回到祂身邊。當我們得救時，我們領受了祂的恩典。我們每天與主同行時也需要祂的恩典，直到我們在榮耀中見主的面。