Deuteronomy 29:29 (ESV) The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Main point: If we could understand Paul’s perspective, we would praise God like Paul.

- Paul is praising God for our great salvation ‘in Christ’ in vs. 3-14.
  - Spiritual Blessings from the Father (1:3-6)
  - Spiritual Blessings from the Son (1:7-12)
  - Spiritual Blessings from the Spirit (1:13-14)

Why should we praise God?

1. Because the Father has shown us His love

   Ephesians 1:3-6 (ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

   8 Obvious Observations

1. Election is biblical.

   “The doctrine of election is a divine revelation not a human speculation. It was not invented by Augustine of Hippo or Calvin of Geneva. On the contrary, it is without question a biblical doctrine, and no biblical Christian can ignore it... So we must reject the notion of election as if it were a weird fantasy of men, but rather humbly accept it (though we don’t fully understand it) as a truth which God himself has revealed.” – John Stott

2. Chosen ‘in Christ’

3. Chosen ‘before the foundation of the world’

4. Being chosen is simply part of God’s Comprehensive Sovereignty (1:11)

5. Consistent with the Necessity of Faith (1:13)

6. Mysterious (1:5b, 1:11b)

7. Apart from any good in me (1:4d)
8. **Election is for God’s glory (1:5c)**

4 Appropriate Applications

1. **God chose us to be holy.**

2. **God’s choosing should humble us.**

   **1 Corinthians 1:27-31 (ESV)**

   But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

   “Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God’s sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.”

   – (From the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message)

3. **God’s choosing should encourage us.**

4. **God chose us for a mission.**

7 Similarities, 1 Responsibility

1. **Adoption is seriously planned.**

2. **Adoption saves the child from bad situations.**

3. **Adoption involves a legal transfer.**

4. **Adoption requires the right qualifications.**

5. **Adoption is costly.**

6. **Adoption transforms the child.**

7. **Adoption brings the spirit of sonship.**

1 Responsibility:

**Ephesians 5:1-2 (ESV)**

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.