

Chosen In Christ
Ephesians 1:4-6

INTRO: “Chosen” that is our subject today. “Chosen in Him” that’s what the Scriptures say. What does it mean to be chosen? The Greek word for chosen is *eklegomai* meaning “to choose out, make a choice, to pick out, to pick or choose out for one’s self.” Question 19 of *A Baptist Catechism* by C. H. Spurgeon asks: “Did God leave all mankind to perish in the state of sin and misery?” Spurgeon answers: “God, having, out of good pleasure from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life (II Thes. 2:13, Eph. 1:4), did enter into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the state of sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a redeemer (Rom. 5:21).”

I. VS. 4, CHOSEN IN CHRIST

- A. “According” points us back to verse 3. We have been blessed with all spiritual blessings because we have been “chosen in Him.” We could never have these blessings apart from the elective grace of God.
- B. “Chosen in Him.” That God has chosen those that believe is the doctrine of election.
 1. E.Y. Mullins, president of the Southern Baptist Convention 1921-1924 says: “In the phrase ‘he chose us,’ the verb is in the middle voice, meaning, ‘he chose us for himself.’ Of course, this implies a choice from among others” (29).
 2. Did God chose us because He saw that we would chose Him? Or did God chose us simply because He chose to do so according to His own pleasure and will? The answer to this question is found by reading verses 4-5 together. God chose us “according to the good pleasure of His will.”
 3. The Scriptures before us today are not isolated verses that deal with election. There are many Scriptures in the New Testament that teach election (II Thes 2:13-14, I Pet 1:2). Take your *Strong’s Concordance* and look up elect, elected, election, chosen, and called, and it will thrill you to see how often God affirms His love for His children.

- C. "In Him." The scriptures soundly teach that salvation begins with God and not with man. The roots of salvation are in the sovereignty of God.
1. John 15:16: "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you."
 2. I John 4:9: "We love Him because He first loved us."
 3. We need to rejoice in Luke 19:10: "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."
 - a. Left to ourselves, we would never seek God (Rom. 3:10-12).
 - b. Isaiah 53:6: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way...."
 4. Preacher, if salvation is all of grace, all of God, does that mean that men come to God against their will? No, the sinner does not respond to God's gift of grace against his will. But, he responds because God makes him willing—day of His power.
 - a. Divine sovereignty and human responsibility do not conflict (John 6:37).
 - b. I John 4:10: "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us..."
 - c. I love Him because He loved me. I chose Him because He chose me.
- D. "Chosen... before the foundation of the world..."
1. We were chosen before the creation of the world.
 - a. "Foundation" is the Greek word *katabole* meaning to throw down.
 - b. We were chosen in Christ before the world was thrown down or founded.
 2. Before there was an earth, long before I was conceived, God set His eye and His affection on me.
- E. The purpose of election is found in this verse: "that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."
1. We are saved for a purpose.
 - a. "That we should be holy." Saved to holiness of life. We are not saved to live permissively. We are to live godly, separated lives. We are to be different from others. Different, holy, in

a world headed to hell– that is what Christians are to be.

- b. “Without blame” means that no one is able to get a handle on you. They are unable to point to open sin in your life. We can stand up to inspection.
- 2. “In love.” Our motivation for holy living and selfless service is our love for Him.

II. VS. 5, PREDESTINATION AND ADOPTION

A. Predestination, as used in the Word of God, refers primarily to what God does for saved folks.

- 1. The Bible nowhere teaches that anyone is predestinated to hell.
- 2. Predestination refers to the purposes of God for His elect.
- 3. Predestination means, “to ordain beforehand, to predetermine.”
 - a. All things work together for good because of predestination (Rom. 8:28-30).
 - b. Eph. 1:11 teaches us that believers have an inheritance because of predestination.

B. “Adoption.” God foreordained us to adoption as sons.

- 1. “Adoption is an act of God’s free grace, whereby we are received into the number and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God” (C.H. Spurgeon).
- 2. “Under Roman law adoption secured for the adopted child a right to the name and to the property of the person by whom he had been adopted. The moment a child was adopted by a person, that child had the legal right, an absolute legal right, to make such claims. On the other hand, Roman law granted to the person who adopted the child all the rights and privileges of a father. It worked both ways” (D.M. Lloyd-Jones 109-110).
- 3. When God adopts us, He imparts His spirit through Christ.
 - a. It is through the work of Christ that adoption becomes a reality.

- b. Because of the atoning work of Christ, we have a new standing, the relationship of sonship.
 - 4. Just as adoption physically deals with choice, adoption spiritually is by God's choice.
- C. Child of God, God chose you and adopted you into His family. We are born again, and adopted by the will of God (John 1:13).

III. VS. 6, ACCEPTED

- A. Our lives as children of God are to magnify and bring glory to the grace of God.
 - 1. We are to be holy.
 - 2. We are to praise and bring praise to God.
- B. Saved folks are accepted in Christ, the beloved of God (Matt. 3:17).
 - 1. We were unable to make ourselves acceptable to God, but God by His grace has accepted us in Christ.
 - 2. We have been "be-graced."
 - 3. Our position of being accepted can never change. Once in grace always in grace.
 - 4. We are accepted by receiving God's Son (John 3:16).

CONCLUSION: Election is for the saved. To the lost the message is accept Christ.

- 1. Matt. 11:28: Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
- 2. Isaiah 45:22: "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth."

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