

Who Are You? Chosen

Pastor James Bell

Ephesians 1:1–14 NKJV

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. 11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Who Are You? A question that we sometime know the answer within but on the surface or bringing explanation we have the tendency to stumble upon the right words. Last we the aspect of who we are was from the view of being blessed. And this week we will unfold the identity of being chosen. But chosen for what? I'm so glad that this hit your radar this morning and right now is a most opportune time to invite Holy Spirit to open our eyes and hearts to his views and revelation.

Choose in the greek means to select and or to give favor. Earlier translations denotes the Hebrew word as bachar which means to take a keen (favorable) look at. It is a

choice based off of a thorough examination of the situation and not an arbitrary happenstance.

This tells us that favor or if we could use last weeks identity of blessing is upon the chosen one or the something that is chosen. The decision of what or who is chosen is deliberate. The chosen is from the basis of having to choose between 2 or more somethings. In this case it is the ones who are in Christ Jesus that are chosen. And this understanding dates back to Deuteronomy 7:6-8

Deuteronomy 7:6–8 NLT

6 For you are a holy people, who belong to the LORD your God. Of all the people on earth, the LORD your God has chosen you to be his own special treasure. 7 “The LORD did not set his heart on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations! 8 Rather, it was simply that the LORD loves you, and he was keeping the oath he had sworn to your ancestors. That is why the LORD rescued you with such a strong hand from your slavery and from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt.

The first time that chosen is written in the Bible and it brings so much clarity to whom was chosen and why. The Israelites were chosen to be God’s chosen people. A people called to be set apart and to be different. A people that would reflect the heart of God but missed it because they still had the stench of Egypt within their heart. Exodus 19:3-11

Exodus 19:3–11 NLT

3 Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: 4 ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. 6 And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.’ This is the message you must give to the people of Israel.” 7 So Moses returned from the mountain and called together the elders of the people and told them everything the LORD had commanded him. 8 And all the people responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has commanded.” So Moses brought the people’s answer back to the LORD. 9 Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will come to you in a thick cloud, Moses, so the people themselves can hear me when I speak with you. Then they will always trust you.” Moses told the LORD what the people had said. 10 Then the LORD told Moses, “Go down and prepare the people for my arrival. Consecrate them today and tomorrow, and have them wash their clothing. 11 Be sure they are ready on the third day, for on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai as all the people watch.

Exodus 20:19–20 NLT

19 And they said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen. But don’t let God speak directly to us, or we will die!” 20 “Don’t be afraid,” Moses answered them, “for God has come in this way to test you, and so that your fear of him will keep you from sinning!”

God told them that they would be His special treasure if they would obeyed. And what did they not obey? They heard the same voice that Moses heard but what did they have in common with Moses? They were both in Egypt for a time. Moses had separated Egypt from his heart and the Israelites hearts was still in Egypt. These people were forced to serve man but when given the opportunity to serve God, they preferred to serve their own selfish desires. They heard something that they did not want to hear. This is what differentiated Moses and the Children of Israel. And we are living in a time and society where the Western church and society preaches that we can have serve our own selves while serving the Kingdom of God. We can have our cake and eat it too. We can have the best of both worlds all the while the true Gospel says in 2 Corinthians 6:17-2 Corinthians 7:1

2 Corinthians 6:17–7:1 NLT

17 Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. Don’t touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. 18 And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.” 1 Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.

What the Israelites were chosen for could have been found in any other nation but God had a covenant with a man named Abraham. And we should be well within scripture and within our lives that God does not break His covenants.

Genesis 15:1–5 NLT

1 Some time later, the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, “Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great.” 2 But Abram replied, “O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don’t even have a son? Since you’ve given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. 3 You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir.” 4 Then the LORD said to him, “No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.” 5 Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!”

We are all familiar with the story of Abraham because the Pastor so often relates to him, but since we are preaching about being chosen then we must make mention to God's heart that chose Abraham over all other man. The specifics that made a covenant with Abraham right after this verse 5 validates the chosen of Abraham. But notice that God specifies that his descendants would not be a servant but an heir.

Genesis 16 tells us the story of how Sarai had become dishearten because she could give Abram children so they tried to do things on their own and Abram slept with Hagar and became pregnant with Ishmael. But in Genesis 17 God confirms the covenant is to be with Issac. And now we can shine the light of the word "Chosen".

The Hebrew word is Bachar which means to take a keen (favorable) look at. It is a choice based off of a thorough examination of the situation and not an arbitrary happenstance.

This tells us that favor is upon the chosen one or the something that is chosen. The decision of what or who is chosen is deliberate. The chosen is from the basis of having to choose between 2 or more somethings.

And the chosen was awarded to Issac. God had to choose and what God chooses is blessed and favor is upon. The chosen are the only ones available to walk and establish a covenant with God. God did extend a covenant with Ishmael but with Issac only.

Matthew 22 tells us a story of what the chosen ones look like. And Jesus likened it to a Wedding Feast. Let's read it together. Matthew 22:1-14

Matthew 22:1-14 NLT

1 Jesus also told them other parables. He said, 2 "The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son. 3 When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify those who were invited. But they all refused to come! 4 "So he sent other servants to tell them, 'The feast has been prepared. The bulls and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet!' 5 But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business. 6 Others seized his messengers and insulted them and killed them. 7 "The king was furious, and he sent out his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town. 8 And he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, and the guests I invited aren't worthy of the honor. 9 Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.' 10 So the servants brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike, and the banquet hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn't wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. 12 'Friend,' he asked, 'how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?' But the man had no reply. 13 Then the king said to his

aides, 'Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."

But there was one man who did not have on the wedding garments. Within scripture sin is signified by nakedness. And garments allude to a covering of God's grace and choosing. When we go to weddings do we wear our everyday work cloths? The cloths that are soiled with stench and odor. No, we wear our best. And we always wash our best before wearing our best. And this man was caught by the King in his not so good cloths. And what became of him? He was cast out, meaning he was rejected even though he had been called. Many are called but few will be chosen or chose to wash their garments. This term of many that Jesus used signifies the majority. What is a majority? 50%...So if we let that sink in real deep we will see that many have qualified themselves just as this man but when the King comes he will rid his Kingdom of the stench of Egypt within each heart of those that refuse to accept the call to be His prized possession.

In Closing:

1 Peter 2:1-5 NLT

1 So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. 2 Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, 3 now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. 4 You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. 5 And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.

1 Peter 2:9 NLT

9 ... for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

You have been selected to a position and purpose of a royal priest. A call that many refuse but know that this is what you have been chosen for. A people that is holy and set apart to bring light into dark places.

If God was to allow our sins into heaven he would have to change His judgement for Satan. But He cannot because He said that His word was forever settled in heaven. Heaven and Earth will pass away before for word or punctuation changes. God's word

is the final word and say so. We must forsaken our democratic mindset. A thinking that our say so will make God change.

Today I want to encourage you to live the life of being called and chosen by God. Let me pray with you!