SERIES ON EPHESIANS

TITLE: "CHOSEN IN HIM"

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LOCATION: SUNDAY SCHOOL AT SANTA CLARITA BAPTIST CHURCH

I. Introduction

II. Memory Verse:

Ephesians 1:3

> 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.

III. Main Idea – God, sheerly by grace, chose all Christians to be in His family from eternity past in in order to glorify Himself to eternity future.

IV. The Text (1:4-6)

A. When God chose us: Eternity past – *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world*

- God's love in choosing us never had a beginning and will never have an end!
- This is one of the clearest affirmations of God's sovereignty in salvation in Scripture ("Calvinism," as opposed to "Arminianism")
- These are both true: (1) God chose us (God's sovereignty) and (2) we choose to believe (Man's responsibility). No mere human can resolve this antinomy. Regardless, <u>it is critical to affirm both</u>!

B. Why God chose us: Our holiness – *that we would be holy and blameless before Him*

- Positively, "*holiness*" means to be set apart from the world for God's disposal

- Negatively, "*blameless*" means to be free from blemish (same word is used for a "spotless" sacrificial lamb)

- We do not pursue holiness alone, but *before Him* (in His holy presence), recalling the burning bush (Exodus 3:5)

C. What God chose us for: Adoption into His family – *In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself*

- *"predestine us to adoption"* means "determine beforehand our adoption"

- Adoption is deeply interwoven into the Divine plan of salvation (Romans 8:29-30; Galatians 4:4-7)

D. How God chose us: Intentional kindness – *according to the kind intention of His will*

- "*kind intention*" has the idea of "good pleasure," "satisfaction," and "approval"

- God did not choose us arbitrarily, but with a deep love and delight in doing so

E. To what end God chose us: Worshipping Him – *to the praise of the glory of His grace*

- Paul singles out God's key attribute that makes this all happen: *His grace*

- God's grace is His active love, freely bestowed upon us so that we have all we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)

F. In Whom God chose us: His beloved Son – *which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved*

- All that relates to God's grace unto our salvation revolves around being in Christ