

# L12 | Ephesians | "Chosen In Him" | Eph. 1:3-6

## I. Intro/Review:

- Pro. 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.
  - So many groan wanting a vision like the prophets of old, all those that do - don't know that every prophet would not want nor need another vision with the revelation given to us in the completion of His Word.
  - The prophets had fragmented visions, they were limited in their revelation - all that God wanted to reveal to Israel was given in pieces to them.
    - All the revelation given to Israel is only part of God's eternal vision in Christ.
- The blessed God has blessed us with blessings | "all", "spiritual", "in heavenly places" (vocation), "in Christ"
  - "spiritual" - man not interested in spiritual matters, rather interested in the life of this world, that which can be seen, touched, felt and handled.
    - Man has no interest in these because they are dead and their life is governed by the prince of the power of the air, the god of this world. Rather he is interested in houses, horses, dogs, furniture, movies, and various other kinds of affairs.
    - These "spiritual blessings" we are blessed with are given by the Spirit, but then discerned by the Spirit; that is, He sheds light on that which we have been given that we may come to know and understand it.
    - The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, not identified as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as if we are bearers of God's promises with them "physically".
  - "in Christ" - These blessings are not the blessings of "common grace" - God raining on the just and the unjust and having His sun to rise on the evil and good.
- This activity of being blessed took place the moment we believed the gospel is "according as He hath chosen us in Him"
- Christ is the chosen One | "appointed heir of all things", "given all things", "created all things" (creation and government)

## II. Preview:

- To understand we are "chosen in Him" in connection with the nature of our "spiritual blessings" "in heavenly places".
  - When we were chosen
  - The goal of His choosing

### III. Sermon:

[4] - "according as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:"

- The goal of His choosing
- **"according as He hath chosen"**
  - **"according"** - something that has come before; agreeable, suitable, (prepared, ordained); that which is "of Him"
  - **"chosen"** - Selected from a number; picked out; taken in preference; elected; predestinated; designated to office.
    1. Christ - Isa. 42:1
    2. Angels - 1 Tim. 5:21
    3. Israel - Isa. 45:4; 65:9 (Rom. 9:11) - not of work (love); (Rom. 11:5-6) - grace
    4. Body of Christ - Eph. 1:4; Rom. 8:33 (servants); 2 Tim. 2:10; Tit. 1:1-2
- **"in Him"** - God choose Christ, for what
  - Ephesians 1:22 - "gave Him to be head over all things"
  - Ephesians 4:15 - "head, even Christ"
  - Ephesians 5:23 - "even as Christ is the head of the church"
  - Colossians 1:18 - "head of the church"
  - Colossians 2:10 - "head of all principality and power"
- **"us"** - the church for that which Christ is head of "all principality and power"
  - **"there is no man redeemed that isn't chosen; no man chosen that isn't redeemed; yet, no man chosen to be redeemed, but for men that are redeemed are chosen for God's purpose"**
  - God's choosing of us is consistent to:
    1. God's choosing of Christ to be Head of all
    2. The church being given offices (heavenly offices)
      - Romans 12:3-5 - God hath dealt the measure of faith (Titus 2); members of the body have not the same office
      - 1 Cor. 12:18 - "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him."
- When were we chosen
  - **"before the foundation of the world"** - in the foreknowledge of God, in grace and love set upon His Son, given all things, appointed heir of all things, to express

abundantly their glory, grace, and love Christ would have "brethren" in heaven and on earth reigning with Him.

- This was not plan "b", it is God's eternal purpose in Christ
- The question becomes how do we get from the foreknowledge of God to being blessed with all spiritual blessings according as He hath chosen us in Christ?
  - We need to consider a few things before then.
- Yet, here we are given the big picture; that is, what God had purposed in Christ and God's role for the offices in the heavenly places we have been blessed accordingly.
- **"that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love"**
  - **Ps. 40:5 - "Man, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered."**
  - Purpose clause of choosing us in Christ - "that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love"
  - **"holy"** - set apart for God's intended use and pleasure; Rev. 4:1 {context}, :8-11
    - God's choosing "in Christ" is that which makes us "holy" (**Deut. 14:2; Ps. 33:12**)
      - God is "holy, holy, holy" (Isa. 6; Rev.)
      - Everything "before God" is holy; Zech 14:20ff (bells of the horses)
      - Christ is "holy", therefore that which would be in Christ would be "holy".
    - There is none like Him, none that can be likened to Him; however, in Christ as His sons and daughters we can be like Him, be godly.
  - **"without blame"** - here is the first time we see the issue of "sin"
    - You can be holy without sin; however, "without blame" denotes the possibility of "blame" and what God has chosen in Him is "holy and without blame"
    - Still an issue of being made like Him.
    - Waiting to describe how we receive these things via redemption; yet, we are still looking at His counsel, His foreknowledge and His blessing of us is in accord with His vision, His choosing.
      - Christ is holy - we are chosen to be holy in Christ
      - Christ is without blame - we are chosen to be without blame in Christ
  - **"before Him"** - God the Father's good pleasure is for us to be "before Him"

- God's good pleasure is for His Son to create creatures fit for offices of reign reflective of His glory, holiness, without blemish for His eternal glory and those creatures.
- In Christ such creatures will be "holy" and "without blame"
- **"in love"** - His love is manifest in simply His foreknowledge, moreover how such a purpose will be fulfilled is and will be a manifestation of His deep, profound, rich, great love.
  - Love toward us, love toward Him, love toward each other
    - Love the Lord thy God
    - Love thy neighbor
    - God commended His love
  - Rom. 5:5, 8; 8:28, 39 (Tit. 3:4)
  - Jn. 17:19-26
  - 1 Jn. 2:15
  - 1 Jn. 3:1, 11, 14, 16, 17
  - 1 Jn. 4:7-12, 16-19

#### IV. Conclusion: