

L13 | Ephesians | "Chosen Before The World" | 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.
 - In Ephesians 1 we are given the foremost text of God's vision.
 - 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 people perish with no vision; yet, the saints of God and the faithful in Christ Jesus are given that which God has chosen from before the world began.
 - Our hope cast by God's vision in Christ is eternal and everlasting. It is sure and exceedingly glorious with a glory that excels all human glory.
 - Its' glory is already possessed by us, granted by the riches of God's grace in Christ; hence we need not like the world steal, rob, and war for more temporal riches.
 - Our riches are spiritual, they are eternal, not limited by the fashion of this world that passeth away and they do not come to a screeching halt upon death, but rather work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory to be experienced upon death for all eternity!
 - Thus by these things God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7). In Ephesians 1 we are learning of that "spirit" - that which first operates in your mind - that spirit of "power", "love", and "soundness of mind". Without which, as a Christian, although given to you for the taking, you will perish in the vanity of your mind just like the rest of the world.
- Review:
 - The blessed God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has blessed us.
 - Such an action of blessing us indicates an inheritance of blessings given to the Son of whom we are now "in Christ".
 - Therefore, that which was chosen of God in Christ we, now being in Christ, have been blessed with, that is, all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.
 - God the Father has chosen Christ, thus has given Him all things, therefore, all things in

the Son He chose, thus we are chosen in Him.

- God planned in Christ to make creatures which would share in His glory - to reign with Him both in heaven and on earth
 - All offices and creatures were made by Him and for Him.

II. Preview:

- Before the foundation of the world
- The basic criteria of His offices in Christ must be meet to Christ (holy and without blame)

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:"**

- **"according as He hath chosen us in Him"**
 - **"according as"** - the Father's blessing of us is consistent and the appropriate action taken toward us in view of His choosing.
 - **"chosen...in Him"** - God's choosing is in, by, and through the Son
 - God's prerogatives - 1) the glory of Father and Son, 2) our glory
 - **"there is no man redeemed that isn't chosen; no man chosen that isn't redeemed; yet, no man chosen to be redeemed, but men that are redeemed are chosen for God's purpose"**
 - When we examine the issue of "choosing" we must ask, chosen for what?
 - We saw in a previous lesson when we see chosen, elect, we see the issue of servants and **service**.
 - God's choosing purpose isn't redemption, the storyline of scripture does not begin with man's need for redemption, but rather man was made to serve God.
 - We are chosen in Him - the question we should ask is how do we get "in Him"?
 - Therefore, the Father chose the Son and those "in Christ" were those chosen.
 - The lingering questions the majority of scripture is how will He redeem any after His judgment of Adam.
 - **"before the foundation of the world"**
 - **"before"** - timing

- **"the foundation"** - the first part of His creation
- **"of the world"** - the cosmos; can be used only to talk about the earth-world; however, we see the foundation of the world in Genesis, but the development of all the world, that is, the earth-world and heaven-world.
- God's choosing of Christ and those "in Christ" to serve took place "before the foundation of the world"
 - Counsel before foundation
 - Job 12:13 (Job 38:2, 42:3); Ps. 33:11; Pro. 8:14, 11:14, 15:22, 19:20-21, 20:18, 21:30
 - Eph. 1:11, 2 Tim. 1:8-11
 - Prov. 8:12 - I wisdom dwell with prudence (subtlety, discretion)
- This is what the world was created for
- **"of the world"** - heaven and earth (prophecy primary looks at the world regarding the earth)
 - 1 Cor. 4; Eph. 1; Col. 1

IV. Conclusion: