

L11 | Ephesians | "The Chosen" | Eph. 1:3-6

I. Intro/Review:

- Review Lesson 10 notes (taught from Lesson 9 notes due to technical error)
- The great, blessed God that inhabits eternity has blessed us with all spiritual blessings, the derivatives, the dividends of His counsel from before the foundation of the world.
- These spiritual blessings constitute part of that trusted to the Son, the Word, but all our inheritance. These spiritual blessings are rooted in His Word concerning the heavenly places - one part of Christ's creation.
- These spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ are part of God's purpose in Christ and we have been blessed with them.

II. Preview:

- To understand the relationship of that which we have been "blessed" to His choosing before the foundation of the world.
 - Chosen in Him
 - Before the foundation of the world
 - That we should be before Him
 - Holy
 - Without blame
 - In love

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:"

- A few things to observe and note:
 1. The verse reads - "according as He [the Father] hath chosen us in Him [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him [the Father] in love:"
 2. "**according**" - something that has come before; agreeable, suitable, (prepared, ordained); that which is "of Him"
- The blessed God blessing us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ is in line with, agreeable to a certain activity of His
 - God choose something
 - "us" - group of people whom He would bless with these all spiritual blessing in heavenly places
 - "in Him" - source, through, means

- "before the foundation of the world" - timing of His choosing
- "that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:" - the purpose of His choosing
- The Father's blessing of us with that which He blessed us with when we believed the gospel is the fruit of His choosing us before the foundation of the world.
- To understand God's choosing we should
 1. Understand God's choosing of Christ
 2. Understand what God's choosing means & what the choosing is not
 3. Understand the relationship of God's choosing to all spiritual blessings in heavenly places

1. God's choosing of Christ

- Why should we first consider God's choosing of Christ? "as He hath chosen us IN HIM"
 - We cannot understand God's choosing of us without first understanding of God's choosing of Christ
 - Review what we already know:
 - Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father (Jn. 1:18)
 - Jesus Christ, the Word, was God and with God in the beginning (Jn. 1:1)
 - How was the Word, in the bosom of the Father manifest as "the chosen one"?
 - a. **Creation** | All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. (Jn. 1:3)
 - "...the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein;" (Acts 14:15)
 - "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;" (Acts 17:24)
 - "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world." (Ps. 19:1-3)
- Creation has a voice as it utters the author of

their beginning

- "The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods." (Ps. 24:1-2)

b. **Authority** | ...the Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds; (Heb. 1:3)

- "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." (1 Cor. 11:3)
- "The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand." (Jn. 3:35)
- "For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist." (Col. 1:16-17)

c. **Glory** | Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person (Heb. 1:3a)

- "...Who is the image of God..." (2 Cor. 4:4)
- "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:" (Col. 1:15)
 - He is the only begotten Son of God the chosen One Who is not only the image of the invisible, but the image we are to be conformed to.
 - If you know the Son, you know the Father. The goodness, mercy, love, longsuffering, justice, and truth was declared by Christ and revealed in Christ.

Summary:

- "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." (Jn. 17:24)
 - Jesus Christ was the Word that created, the appointed heir Whom the Father trusted with full authority over Their creation, to fill with His glory.

- Therefore, Christ is the "firstborn of every creature", "the only begotten", "the image of God", "the beloved".
 - **Isaiah 42:1** - "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles."
 - This is the beloved Son of the Father, in Whom He is well-pleased
 - Do you behold Him? Can you see Him? Behold Him and you will know your image! Behold Him a little longer and you maybe be conformed to Him! Behold Him longer still and believe and you will be!
 - Know what He created and you will begin to know why your blessed with all spiritual blessings "in heavenly places".
 - Know the measure of His authority and you will begin to know what the spiritual blessings are for.
 - Know His glory and you will know what the spiritual blessings are.

2. What God's choosing means and what it is not?

- First we should understand what the word means?
- **"chosen"** - Selected from a number; picked out; taken in preference; elected; predestinated; designated to office.
 - The focus therefore is what have we been "chosen" to? What has He picked us out for? What office has He designated for us?
 - What have we been "chosen" to in which God's blessing of us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ is in accord with?
 - Which came first in the foreknowledge of God?
 - His eternal purpose in Christ
 - Or the provision for sin
 - God of course knew about "sin" and His response, but we don't have in these verses. The verses do not say He purposed to make "sin" - this goes contrary to His character... "sin" was not "of Him". A great question to ask then is how can something created "of God" produce something not "of God"? A question we will answer in future lessons.
 - Therefore, although He planned for redemption, redemption isn't the destination, but in view of sin "entering" a means and provision to get to the intended destination, to get to the

predestination.

- We will eventually see, God chose the "laws of redemption", but not the individuals that would qualify for them. He did not chose some to be saved and some to condemnation.
- In fact, He eventually condemns all and implements His "laws of redemption"
- Redemption becomes the instrumentality to do what He has "chosen in Christ".
- Therefore, only those redeemed are "the chosen" our choosing being "in Christ."
 - Need to be obedient and meet the chosen law of faith in order to be redeemed.
- **"chosen us in Him"**
 - The instrumentality of God's choosing is first His Son and then through His Son
 - In other words, what did God choose in Christ and for Christ
 - Old Testament
 - What did He give Adam? - Dominion
 - What did was usurped? - Lord's temptations
 - What will Christ possess? - Isa. 9:6ff
 - Promised in Davidic Covenant
 - Everlasting kingdom
 - Prepared offices - Matt. 20:23
 - Romans 8:29 - "For Whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."
 - As God the environment and context of the expression of His image is in authority, government, and dominion.

3. Understand the relationship between God's choosing us and the spiritual blessings we have been blessed with.

- This is what the Father choose for Christ to have all authority in heaven and earth with creatures to reign with Him in His kingdom that He would create.
- You and I, as the Ephesians, due to certain judgments of God have been "blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."

- What determines which blessings we are blessed with?
 - Chosen us in Him in heavenly places (His purpose for the heavenly places for Christ)
 - Unsearchable Judgments
 - Redemption

IV. Conclusion: