

L14 | Ephesians | "Holy and Without Blame" | Eph. 1:3-6

I. Intro/Review:

- Pro. 15:22 - "Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established."
- Pro. 20:18 - "Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war."
- Pro. 29:18 - "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."
- Ps. 33:11 - "The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations."
- Ps. 33:10 - "The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he makes the devices of the people of none effect."
- Pro. 8:14 - "Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength."
 - Examining the counsel of God - how do we know this? {4 - "...before the foundation of the world..."}
 - God chooses all things in Christ, both made and fulfilled - thus that which is before the foundation of the world is the Godhead and the counsel of God in the foreknowledge and predestination, that which would be "of Him".
 - The "all things" that would be given, made, and fulfilled in Christ would not only consist of the world (heaven & earth) but their occupants.
 - The Word before the foundation of the world chosen amongst the Godhead to receive all things concerning the will of God would thus inherit all things of the world (heaven and earth) and be "firstborn of every creature" by virtue of that which was given to Him (not by being created) and be over every creature in heaven and earth whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him (Col. 1:15-16).
 - Therefore, these creatures would share, in measure, the inheritance given to Christ.
 - God chose Christ, He is the elect One.
 - Thus, we have seen "the blessed Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (:3) bless us with all spiritual blessings that in accord with God's choosing of us in Christ before the foundation of the world.
 - God's blessing of us now in Christ is the "through Him" (provision) of that which is "of Him" (plan/purpose).
 - We have entered into God's choosing, God's flow of plan & purpose, provision, and product because all that God will to do He will to do in, by, of, and through

Christ. Therefore, because Christ is chosen and we are now in Christ we are chosen - He chose us in Him.

II. Preview:

- Holy and Without Blame Before Him in Love
 - The qualifications to be used by Him in His purpose in Christ
 - Qualifications suitable and meet for Him and reflective of Christ and His purpose in Christ

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:"**

- **"that"** - purpose clause
 - God's choosing of us in Christ before the foundation of the world concerning "the heavenly places" is not simply "that" we would dwell there, that we would dispossess the abode of fallen angels, and live with Christ in His heavenly kingdom.
 - In other words, this verse does not read, He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we fill the heavenly places (that's later).
 - The emphasis isn't simply our inheritance as it concerns God's world (the heaven or the earth), nor what we will do.
- **"holy and without blame"**
 - Rather, first and foremost God's choosing of us in Him is that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.
 - Why do we need to be "holy and without blame"?
 1. If we are "chosen in Him" that we should be holy and without blame before Him, then Christ is holy and without blame before Him.
 2. The Godhead is holy - in fact, holy, holy, holy - holiness being the foremost characteristic of God.
 - The holiness of God is freedom from all evil. God's nature is estranged from all shadow of evil, any and all imaginable contagions.
- **Mark 1:40-42**
 - **Lev. 13-14** - identify leprosy and what they are to do (picture of sin)
 - Nothing how to treat the disease (no remedy)
 - The law provides no cure from leprosy
 - If pronounced with leprosy all the law would have done would be to condemn

- Jehovah dwelt in the camp of Israel - leprosy is defilement and cannot dwell alongside perfect purity
- **Lev. 13:45-46**
 - Living death
 - Isolating and lonely problem (2 Chr. 26:21)
- **Luke 17:12** - lepers (which stood afar off)
 - Rabbi's taught you couldn't come within 6 feet
 - Tradition of elders and their washings
 - Awhile from wife, children, no social life (outcast)
 - Shameful - announce he was a leper and unclean
 - Thought they were under judgment of God
 - Incurable - Naaman (2 Kings 5:1-7)
- Not only doesn't Christ become infected, but He infects the leper
 - Others defiled, others guilty
 - Christ reaches out and touches Him (everyone else touches the leper and they would be defiled, but Jesus touches the leper and infects him with the contagion of heaven - cleanness, holiness)
- Thus God cannot be made unclean, but He is so clean He can make others clean.
 - **Jas. 1:17** - "...the Father of lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."
 - **1 John 1:5** - "...in Him is no darkness at all."
- Holiness is the substance of God, He is absolutely holy - no creature can be essentially holy. Creatures can only be holy as a derivative from Him.
- There is no contradiction in the divine nature.
- God's holiness is the incomparableness of God; that is, all of God's excellencies are incomparable to the excellencies of His creatures.
- Therefore, **Heb. 12:14** - "...and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"
- Here is where we begin to see that God's wisdom dwells with prudence (**Pro. 8:12**)
 - "prudence" - caution in deliberating and consulting on the most suitable means to accomplish purposes - prudence is that of foreseeing evil and providing for it in wisdom.
 - The purpose of choosing is meet to God Himself because God cannot compromise

- Christ will create, but He cannot create Himself
- The Godhead will create in their image, after His likeness and although "holy" not in the sense that we are blessed with the spiritual blessing of being "holy".
- With Adam being created there would need to be a further work accomplished - Adam was innocent, sinless, but not justified He was not made "holy" as God is "holy".
- Instead, God's wisdom and prudence orchestrates in His counsel before the foundation of the world the laws of redemption - knowing the innocent will become unclean He will make Him holy in Christ through redemption for the purpose He has planned in Christ.
- The sheer declaration of God's choosing us in Christ to be "holy" is staggering as you know the incomparableness of God, His holiness. Both as His creature, and in view of sin.
 - In order to be used by God in that which He choose in Christ, we must be "holy". The One that planned us to be holy is the only One that can provide for us to be "holy" and is the One that made us "holy".
 - Wholly holy - spirit, soul, and body
- **"holy"** - our inner and outer faculties as His creatures meet with His character and essence
 - Not alive to sin and dead to God - but dead to sin and alive to God
 - Not Paul's point here to express the details of holiness
- **"without blame"** - no offence (2 Cor. 6:3) (nothing that offends God's holiness); that which does not need to be withstood, but have fellowship (Gal. 2:11)
 - Ephesians 5:25-27; Colossians 1:22 (unblameable); Hebrews 9:14 (without spot); 1 Peter 1:19 (without blemish); Jude 1:24 (faultless); Revelation 14:5 (without fault)

IV. Conclusion: