

**Passage:** Ephesians 1:3-4

**Title:** The Chosen!

**Summary:** This week's sermon from Ephesians 1:3-4 explores the incredible truth that we have been chosen by God and blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. We discover that our identity as saints is not something we earn through our efforts, but rather a position we occupy because of God's perfect love. The sermon challenges us to move from earthly thinking to heavenly thinking - to stop living like spiritual paupers when we have unlimited riches available to us in Christ. Just as God moved the fence to bring us into His presence, He has secured our position once and for all, declaring us holy and without blame before Him in love.

### **The Word of God in Our Hand Today**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

**Ephesians 1:1 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:**

What's God's will for you? Seek Him and ask Him.

But what we know for sure is verse 2, is God's Will, and let His will be done (amen), and that is to be His saint set apart for Him.

**Ephesians 1:2 (NKJV) <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Grace and Peace! You know I have yet to find in my studies of world history of a peace treaty ever being signed "in love".

### **Fence Moved**

There is a beautiful story that came out of World War I. An American Protestant chaplain stationed in Italy became a friend of a Roman Catholic priest. The chaplain moved on with his unit and was killed. When the priest heard of his death, he asked if the body could be buried in the little cemetery by his church.

The military authorities gave permission, but the priest ran into an unexpected problem. Church officials felt they could not give approval for a non-Catholic to be buried in consecrated soil. So the priest buried his friend just outside the fence.

Years later, an American who had known of the situation visited the old priest and asked to see the chaplain's grave. To his surprise, the grave was inside the fence. "Oh," he said, "You got permission to move the body ... No," replied the priest. "They just told me where I couldn't bury the body. No one ever told me I couldn't move the fence."

*Cranford, C. W. (1988). Cups of Light: and other illustrations. Woodlawn Electronic Publishing.*

God moves the fences that separated us through His perfect love!

**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,**

### **Blessed – Speak Well Of / The Power of Praise and Thanksgiving**

*Blessed* – the Greek word is (Eulogetos), it is where we get our English word “eulogy”. To do a eulogy, you speak well of a person. You speak to their nature and their character, their goodness, and that's what we're being told here in verse three to speak well of the nature and character of our Lord, for all of his blessings and his goodness that he has given on to us. Can we do that? Can we speak well of him? Can we give him praise apart from anything else? Before asking anything or expecting anything, just simply because he's worthy to be praised because of his great blessing.

Interestingly, the word blessed here is not found anywhere else in classical Greek, and it's only used in reference to God. And so, in classical Greek they never used it even as they tried to associate with all the false gods. So it's quite interesting, this word's only used here in the New Testament writings, and it refers to God. And again it's where we get our word eulogy, and it means to speak well of. And so here Paul is saying, "Man, I have to speak well of God the Father. He's amazing with all the spiritual blessings and inheritance that He gave us.

And there's such a powerful place there in that one of the powers to receive these three chapters and all the promises that are made to us is to be people who praise God and bless God for His grace, and His mercy, and His love, and His character, and His nature, and just find ourselves opening our heart and praising Him because He's worthy. Praise will always lead to hearts open to receive the word of God.

What would you bless the Lord for today?

- His love (that is perfect)
- A love that moves fences to bring us in
- His presence where there is fullness of joy and life evermore?

[Psalm 16:11 \(NKJV\) <sup>11</sup>You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.](#)

who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, - the location for all spiritual blessings is found in only one place.... Jesus Christ.

### **Great Miser / Many Believers living like Paupers**

She had gone down in history as "America's Greatest Miser", yet when she died in 1916, Hetty Green left an estate valued at over 100 million dollars. She ate cold oatmeal because it cost to heat it. Her son had to suffer a leg amputation, because she chose to wait in line at a free clinic, and gangrene set in and he lost his leg. After she read the morning newspaper, she made her son go back out on the street and resell the paper. She was wealthy, yet she lived like a pauper. We can sit with amazement and wonder why she did what she did, but she is actually an illustration of too many Christian believers. They have limitless wealth at their disposal, and yet they live like paupers. The book of Ephesians is written to believers that they may stand-up and claim the riches available to them.

### **You Must be Born-again**

"In Christ, so you must be born again." If you're trying to walk, but none of these things are in you, if you're trying to do the fruit of the spirit, you just may not be in Christ. You have to ask yourself, is there a moment that I can put my finger on that I was born again? Because if not, then you're probably not and you can change that today. You can solidify this thing, this point of being in Christ right now by asking him to become your Lord and savior and to take you in and make you his own.

[John 3:3 \(NKJV\) <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."](#)

### **Blessings Found in Jesus – (in 10 times from verses 3-13)**

The blessings are located in Christ. The blessings are not located in the church. They're not located in the world. They're not located in our wisdom. They're not located in our efforts. They're simply located in Christ. And so, as disciples, we walk along with Jesus. That's where the blessings are. Again, we don't have to reach far for them. We just need to receive them as he lives to make intercession that our hearts would be moved, our minds would be convinced I can have these things.

### **We are Seated Next to Him – We can Rest in Him**

Seated means to rest. And so we're told that we're seated in the heavenlies. We can rest in the heavenlies where we're seated, and we don't have to work up the walk and work to claim what is already bestowed upon us. It's the other way. We take what has been given to us and then use it as we go out to walk and work for the Lord.

*Ephesians 2:6 (NKJV) <sup>6</sup> and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

When Jesus said, "Follow me," we can take that and look at that Jesus is walking ahead and we're following behind. But the actual verb tense and usages, Jesus is saying follow with me meaning follow alongside of me. When we come to that as disciples, that he's walking with us alongside of us and we're walking with him alongside of him, then we can see that the spiritual blessings that are promised to us, and are guaranteed to us are right there next to us. And it's not something that we have to reach for some high lofty reach, but it's just right there with he whom we walk with, Jesus Christ.

Remember, he lives at the right hand of the Father, and he's living to make intercession for us. He's praying these blessings for us and he's praying right now and interceding that we can understand what our inheritances are, and that we would claim them today because we have the free will to claim or leave unclaimed. And he's interceding for you right now that your heart would be moved to claim these promises of God.

*Romans 8:34 (NKJV) <sup>34</sup> Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

### **Everything Needed is In Him / Spiritual (Pneuma) Blessings**

Everything you need to live according to God's will and purpose has been given. Now we just need to take it and use it. And so what I say is you don't have to ask for what has been given. You just have to go use it. So the prayer isn't the ask to be seated, to be accepted, to be loved. The prayer is to believe it and then use it accordingly.

Well, what are some of the inheritance? The word here, spiritual inheritance, gives us a clue. It's the word pneuma, which is the word for wind, which is the word for spirit. It's the fruit of the spirit. It's the power to walk worthy. It's the power to have these fruits and these gifts.

*Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV) <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*Galatians 5:22–25 (NKJV) <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

### **People Say I Can't – Because they Don't/Won't**

People can say, "I can't love. I can't have joy. I can't have peace. I can't have patience. I can't have kindness." But the day you came to Jesus, all these things were yours. Now it's yours to claim and to receive and to use. See, with this teaching and when you know who you are in Christ and where you're seated, you can no longer say, "I can't love or I can't have peace." You could say, "I choose not to love. I choose not to have peace. I choose not to have joy." But you cannot say, "I can't have love. I can't have peace. I can't have joy," regardless of the circumstance because all of these spiritual fruits and gifts have been given to us. And so, if we claim

them and apply them, then we can have them. Do you see the difference that's being made here? Earthly thinking versus heavenly thinking.

**James 3:13–18 (NKJV)** <sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

### **God is Saying “Think from the Heavens”**

Here is a major understanding of what is being developed here in this passage, and literally for the whole epistle..... catch this Christian.....all the “cant’s”, and the “falls” in our lives come from earthly thinking. You must think with your mind set on things above. Our thinking must change locations..... from earthly thinking to the heaven, where Christ is, seated on the throne, living to make intercession, offering us all the wisdom in the universe.

When you see..... based on my spiritual inheritance, with Christ living to make intercession for me..... I can love that person, I can have peace as I don’t have to live in this fear and anxiety, I can have joy that surpasses the circumstances of this world. I can overcome because I have an open checkbook on all these things in my account in heaven. My account on earth is pretty bankrupt on these things such as love, joy, peace,.... But the checkbook of heaven is unlimited.

**Colossians 3:1–2 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

We need to come to the Lord, daily I might, continually at that, and say Lord I need to make a withdrawal....Christian we have to change the way we think, we need to see past the earthly resources, the fleshly resources, and look into the heavens and see the wealth of spiritual blessings available to us. We have to change the way we think. We have to think outside this world. This epistle is meant to teach us and take us, into the heavens.

### **Rest in His Love**

We can rest in His love, the God who sings over us. We can rest like the young apostle John did, at that last supper, with his head resting against the heart of Jesus.... Hearing the heartbeat of God, the heart that beats for him, and for you

**Zephaniah 3:17 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup>The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”

**John 13:23 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup>Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

**Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,**

### **Spurgeon**

Spurgeon says, "I'm glad God chose me before the foundations of the world because if it was after the foundations of the world when I was born He would never have chosen me.

### **Chose – Once and For All – Chosen Out From / Remember You are a Saint**

Chose - The word chosen in the verb tense means once and for all, and the word means out from amongst. So we have been chosen “once and for all”, thus there is no going back or undoing, IT IS DONE! And we have been chosen out from amongst. That is why we are “Saints”, and not “aints”. A saint as we study last week, the word saint means, “most holy thing”. Something “Holy” in all the places of the Bible means “set apart, dedicated to God”. That is what you are, you are set apart, you are dedicated to God. You are His! God defines what a saint is, and He defines it by saying a saint is Mine”. You Christian are a saint., chosen out

from amongst those who refuse the gift of salvation, and it is DONE! And God says there is no going back, [your position is secure, by He whom secured it!](#)

There was a boy who did not have much athletic ability. Every time he and his friends would play some game he was always the last to be chosen. One day two new fellows came to play with them and were allowed to be team captains because they were older. The first team captain chose the boy who had always been chosen last before. Why? Because they were brothers, and he loved his brother.

So it is with God. He chose us not because of our abilities, but because he loves us.

[Green, M. P., ed. \(1989\). Illustrations for Biblical Preaching: Over 1500 sermon illustrations arranged by topic and indexed exhaustively \(Revised edition of: The expositor's illustration file\). Baker Book House.](#)

### **Claim/Believe the Position – Or Will Never Live the Duty**

You see, if you don't seize and claim these promises, you will never be able to move on into the duty in the calling that God has for you. You'll never be able to live in power if you're weakened by a weak foundation or lack of a foundation. But when you can settle in then all these promises are yes, and amen, and God, and what he says and declare are truth and amen. Amen means so be it. Then you'll go and you'll live just as such.

You were called a saint, and he gets to that point very quickly in verse two. And now the rest of this book is going to be God made you a saint. You're called a saint. You're secured and guaranteed to be a saint. Now go live like you are. Not live like and become a saint, but live because you are a saint. Some people think if I walk and I work, then I can become a saint, where God says, "No, you're a saint. Now go walk and work as if you are."

### **Holy and Without Blame**

*Verses 4 - holy and without blame before Him in love, -* Remember the word for saints? It is the "holy" which means to be set apart, dedicated to the Lord. Here is that word again, and rather than used as the word "saint" it is used as "holy".

I believe a promise and declaration is being made here – that is how God views us in Him. So when the accuser of the brethren come, that Devil, and he tries to make an accusation against us, the Lord shuts him down and declares they are in Me, and there are perfected, and therefore they are holy (saints) and without blame, there is no accusation you can make you Devil that can stick against them.

[Revelation 12:10 \(NKJV\)](#) <sup>10</sup> *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.*

We have to change the way we think. When the Devil accuses us we have to say, those accusations have been shut down in heavenly places. So that leaves the world (people) and myself left to tear me down, to which I have to say..... regardless, God says holy and without blame, and so that is the way He sees it, therefore I will change my mind and see it the same. And when you know who you are in Christ, the way He sees you, what will you do, start living like it.

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