

## Ephesians 1:2-4 | "Spiritual Blessings In Christ"

### I. SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST. (v. 1-14)

#### GREETING (v. 1-2)

(1) Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

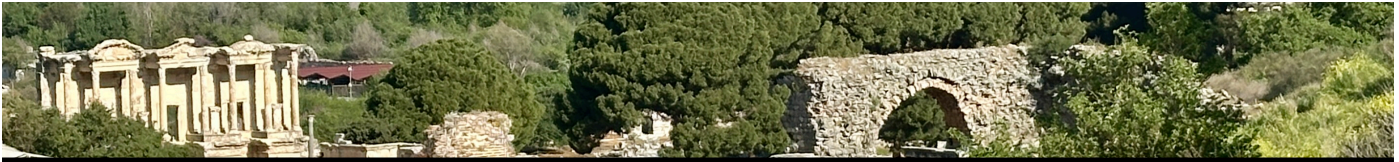
(2) Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**"Grace be to you, and peace,"**

- A. "Grace" = Customary Greek greeting
- B. "Peace" = Customary Jewish greeting (Hebrew *Shalom*)
  - 1. **NOTE:** Grace and Peace are the siamese twins of the New Testament, and they are always in that order because you cannot experience the peace of God unless you first experience the grace of God. Grace always precedes peace.

**"from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."**

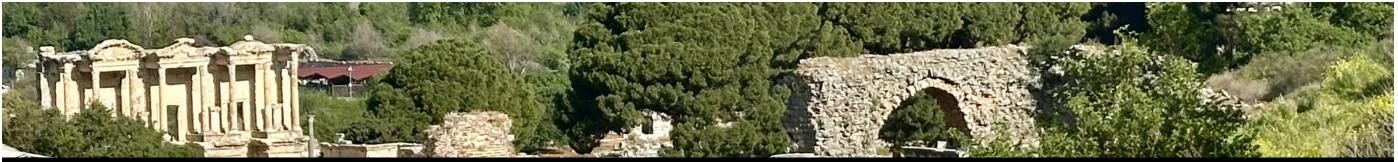
- A. This is where we receive grace and peace, "from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."
  - 1. **KEY:** As you read the Bible, one of the foremost traits that God wants you to know about Him is that He is GRACIOUS!
    - a. Cf. **Exodus 33:19** - "And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy."
    - b. Cf. **2 Kings 13:23** - "And the LORD was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet."
    - c. Cf. **Nehemiah 9:17** - "And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but



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*hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: **but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.**"*

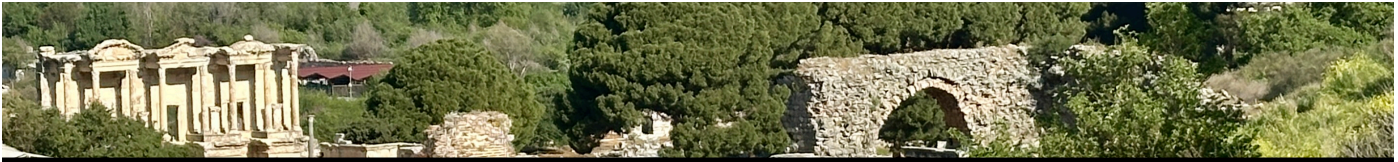
- d. Cf. **Psalm 86:15** - *"But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."*
- e. Cf. **Psalm 111:4** - *"He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion."*
- f. Cf. **Psalm 112:4** - *"Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous."*
- g. Cf. **Psalm 116:5** - *"Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful."*
- h. Cf. **Psalm 145:8** - *"The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy."*
- i. Cf. **Joel 2:13** - *"And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil."*
- j. Cf. **Jonah 4:2** - *"And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil."*
- k. Cf. **John 1:1, 14-18** - *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but*



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*grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."*

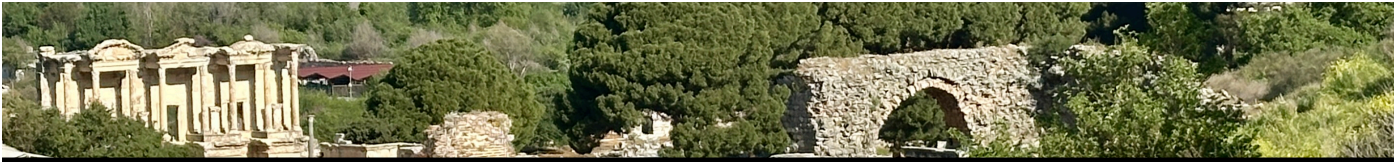
- B. "from God our Father"
1. Some people have a hard time relating to God as a Father.
    - a. Some may have had bad experiences with their earthly father, or didn't even know their earthly father.
    - b. Some may not understand the closeness that we can have with God as "our Father."
  2. Cf. **Matthew 6:5-9** - In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, **pray to thy Father** which is in secret; and **thy Father** which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for **your Father** knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. After this manner therefore pray ye: **Our Father** which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."
- C. "the Lord Jesus Christ" = NOT His first, middle, and last name; there should maybe be a comma after the word "Lord," thus "the Lord, Jesus Christ."
1. **TITLE** = "Lord" - Gr. Kyriou - "Master; Owner; Controller; Supreme Authority"
    - a. This indicates our relationship to Him.
      - 1) **KEY:** If Jesus is your "Lord," then you are His servant. It means that I am to be obedient to Him.



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- 2) Cf. **Matthew 7:21-23** - Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."
  - 3) Cf. **Luke 6:46** - Jesus also questioned, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"
  - 4) Cf. **Malachi 1:6** - "A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?"
2. **NAME** = "Jesus" - Greek *Iésous*, which is the Hebrew name *Yeshua*, or *Joshua*, which means "the LORD is Salvation."
    - a. *Yeshua* is a shortened version of the name *Yehoshua*, which is a compound word of the Hebrew words *YHVH* ("LORD" - the name of God) and *Hoshea* ("salvation"). Thus, "the LORD is Salvation." (**Num. 13:16; Josh. 1:1 w/ Deut. 3:21; 32:34; Neh. 8:17**)
    - b. Cf. **Matthew 1:21** - The angel Gabriel told Joseph, "And she shall bring forth a son, and **thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.**"
  3. **OFFICE/MISSION** = "Christ" - Greek *Christos*, which is the Hebrew *Messiah*, which means "Anointed One."
    - a. Christ is NOT His last name, but it is His office and His mission.





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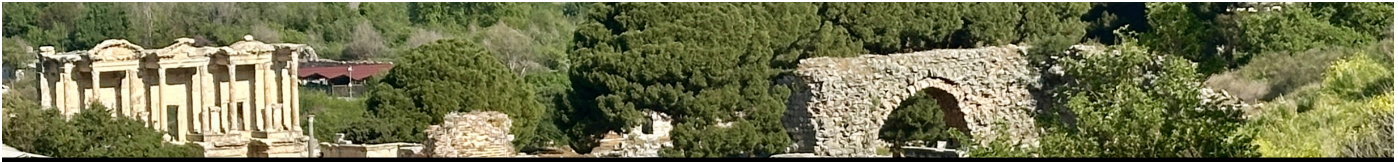
- b. **KEY:** Jesus is the Messiah (the "Anointed One") who was prophesied to come by the prophets in the Old Testament! He is the Savior of the word that was promised!
- 1) Cf. **Psalm 2:1-2** - "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against **his anointed**, saying,"
  - 2) Cf. **Matthew 16:16** - "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art **the Christ**, the Son of the living God."
  - 3) Cf. **Matthew 26:63-64** - "But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, **I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.**"
  - 4) Cf. **John 11:27** - "She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art **the Christ, the Son of God**, which should come into the world."

### EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING (v. 3)

**(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:**

**"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,"**

- A. "Blessed" - Gr. *eulogéto*s - "eulogize; speak well of; praise"
1. Paul is saying, "May God be spoken well of" because of what He has done for us!
  2. **NOTE:** Praise to God is a natural response of a heart that realizes what God has done for you.



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3. **KEY:** True *praise* is that spontaneous response to the awareness of Who God is and what He has done for you!

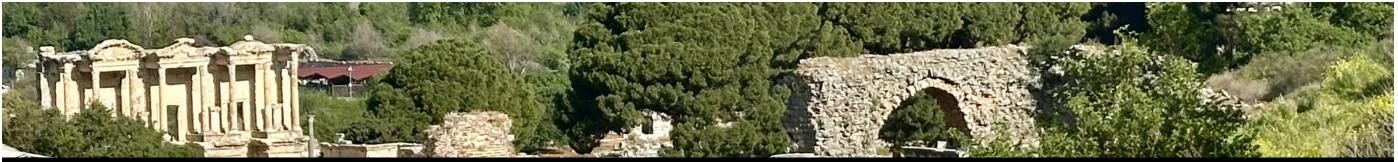
### "who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"

#### A. "spiritual" - Gr. "supernatural; of the Spirit"

1. He is NOT talking about *physical* blessings.
  - a. There has been an evil heresy that has been popularized by many of the T.V. evangelists that as Christians we should all be rich and driving expensive cars and living in luxury.
    - 1) Cf. **1 Timothy 6:5-10, 17** - Paul wrote to Timothy and warned him of those teaching and "*supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. ... Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*"
2. These blessings come to us in Christ, but they also come through the Spirit. They are blessings which are given to us from God through Christ **via the Holy Spirit**. It is by the Holy Spirit they become ours!

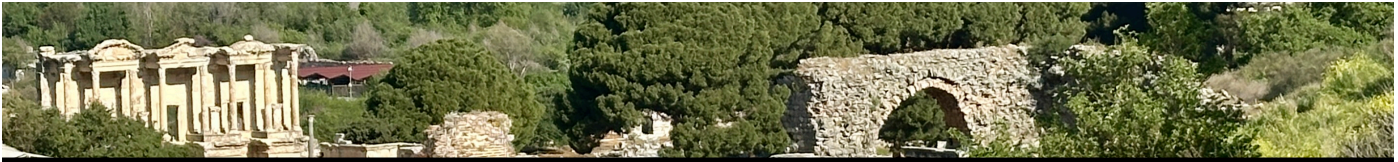
#### B. "in heavenly places"

1. **NOTE:** The Christian faith is OTHER-WORLDLY!



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- a. There are many Christians who want to focus on the "here and now" in regards to material things or even the political system.
    - 1) Part of the present apostasy in the Church today is the Church's focus on the temporal issues of life (politics, social issues, etc.).
    - 2) The Apostle Paul focused on the eternal, spiritual realities that we have in Christ.
  - b. I don't mean to say that we should not be salt and light in this world and vote Biblical standards, etc. We should do that. However, our *spiritual* blessings are not found in this present world or in the temporal realm. They are found in the HEAVENLY realm!
2. **KEY:** We are in this world, but as Christians, we are separate from this world. We live in a totally different realm than the rest of the world!
    - a. Cf. **Philippians 3:20** - "*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*"
- C. "in Christ"
1. **KEY:** All the blessings that God has for us, are given IN, BY, AND THROUGH JESUS CHRIST and imparted to us by His Holy Spirit. Every blessing that God bestows upon you comes to you through Jesus.
- D. "all" - Gr. *pasē* - "every; whole; full; all"
1. You are not lacking anything in Christ!
    - a. Cf. **Psalm 23:1**
      - 1) KJV - "*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*"



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- 2) NIV - "The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing."
  - 3) CSB - "The LORD is my shepherd; I have what I need."
2. Cf. **2 Corinthians 1:20** - "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."
- E. **NOTE:** Verse 3—14 are really one run-on sentence, and it is packed with glorious theological truths!

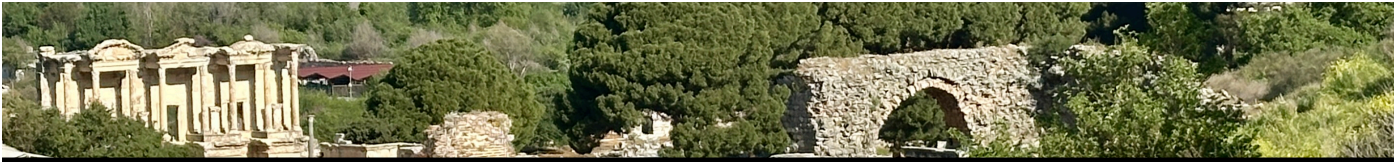
### CHOSEN FOR ADOPTION (v. 4-6)

**(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 before the foundation of the world,"**

- A. Here in verse 4, Paul begins to list the spiritual blessings that we have in Christ.
1. **Q** = If you were to list your blessings in order of appreciation, what would you put at the top of your list? What would you consider to be the greatest blessing that God has bestowed upon you? When you think of God's blessings, what do you think of first?
    - a. It is interesting to me what Paul put at the top of his list. "According as He has chosen us in Him."
- B. "has chosen" - Gr. middle voice; God chose us for Himself
1. You were chosen *in Him*.
    - a. Cf. **John 15:16** - Jesus said to His disciples, "**Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you**, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:..."
    - b. Cf. **2 Thessalonians 2:13-14** - "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the

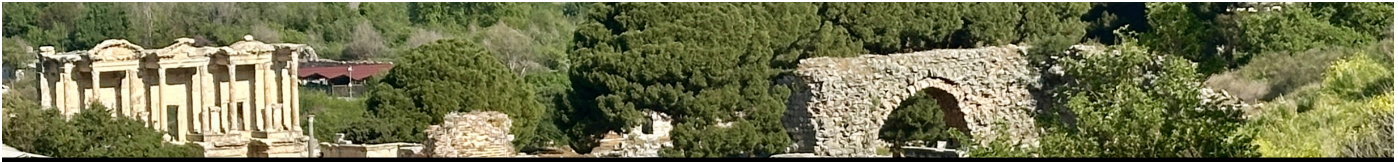




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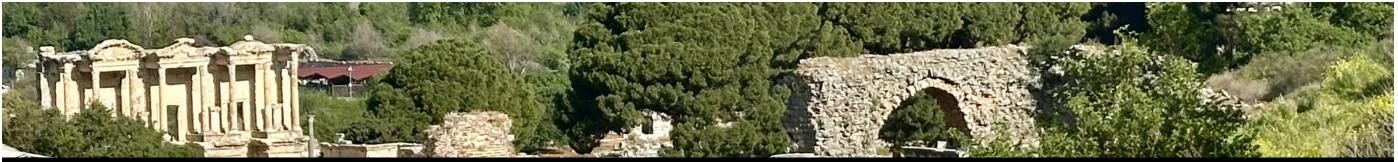
*Lord, because **God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation** through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: **Whereunto he called you by our gospel**, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

2. So, with each one of you who have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and as your Savior, you discover that He has chosen you before the foundation of the world!
  - a. You say, "But wait! Didn't I choose Him?"... Yes, but then you discover that He chose you first!
  
- C. **Q** = When did God choose you?... "*before the foundation of the world*"
  1. Cf. **Revelation 13:8** - "*And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain **from the foundation of the world.***"
  
  2. When seeking to understand the doctrine of Divine Election, or God's choosing, we find difficulty in grasping this divine truth. The difficulty is because of my limited understanding.
    - a. God is Omniscient. He knows *everything*.
      - 1) That means that He can't learn anything; for if He could learn something, then He didn't know it, and therefore He was not omniscient.
      - 2) That means, if there is anything that is ever to be learned, it has always been known by God.
    - b. God knows all things, thus He has always known who was going to be saved.
      - 1) There will be no surprises for God in heaven.
        - a) When you come in, He won't say, "*You made it? I can't believe it!*"



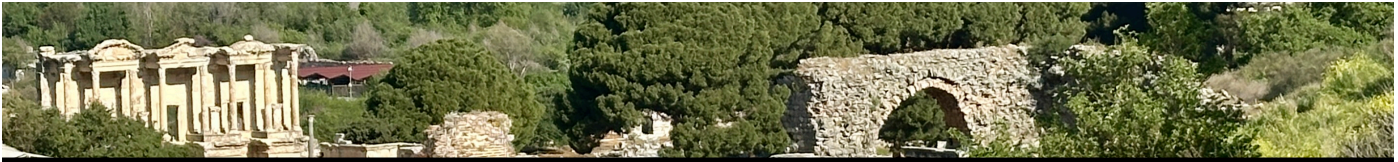
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- b) He won't be shocked. He's going to receive you as His child, for He chose you before the foundation of the world.
3. On the other hand, there is the Human Responsibility of Man. God gave us the capacity of choice.
- a. We were created in the image of God, and God is a self-determinate Being, so he gave us the power of choice that we too can be self-determinate beings.
    - 1) By self-determinate, we mean that we have the capacity to choose our own destiny.
  - b. For our choice to be valid, God honors the choices that we make.
    - 1) Our choices can have devastating consequences when we make the wrong choice and we insist on the wrong way.
    - 2) It is also important to God that my relationship with Him be a meaningful relationship that, having given to me the capacity of choice, He doesn't violate that choice.
  - c. I thank God that He has given to me the capacity of choice.
    - 1) I think it is wonderful that in our culture we have the opportunity to choose the person that we want to spend the rest of our lives with.
    - 2) I'm glad I don't live in a culture where there is arranged marriage. I wanted to decide who I would marry.
    - 3) I'm glad I had the freedom of seeing my wife for the first time and thinking, "Wow! She's pretty! I've got to meet her." Then I was able to get to know her and ask her, "Will you marry me?" and hear her answer "Yes!"



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- a) I would have hated to just have anybody pushed on me.
  - b) I love the fact that I was able to choose who I wanted to spend the rest of my life with.
- 4) It is intriguing to me that many who appreciate the fact that God has given them the capacity of choice quite resent the fact that God also has that capacity and uses it.
- a) I'm glad that God chose me. I don't argue with it. I rejoice in the fact that He chose me!
4. **Q** = Does that mean that God chose some to go to heaven, and some to go to hell?... No. It doesn't say that. It only speaks of who He chose, not who He didn't chose.
- a. Some will say, "Wait a minute! That's not fair! What if I wasn't chosen?!"
  - b. "How do you know you're not chosen? Are you a Christian? Have you given your life to Jesus Christ?"
  - c. "No."
  - d. "Why not?"
  - e. "I don't want to be a Christian?"
  - f. "Then it's really your choice then isn't it? God's not going to force you to go to heaven and fellowship with Him if you don't want to."
  - g. "But that's not fair!"
  - h. "You can choose to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and then you will discovery that you were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world."
5. **Q** = How can God be fair if he chooses us "*before the foundation of the world*"?...



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- a. Here is one of those absurdities where we find men challenging the fairness of the eternal God.
- b. The problem is that I can't think the way God thinks. I can't understand Omniscience because I'm not omniscient. I don't know the results of the choices.
- c. I've made a lot of choices that have been wrong choices. I thought, "Why did I choose that! Dumb!"
- d. God never does that, because He has foreknowledge, and He knows already in advance what will happen.

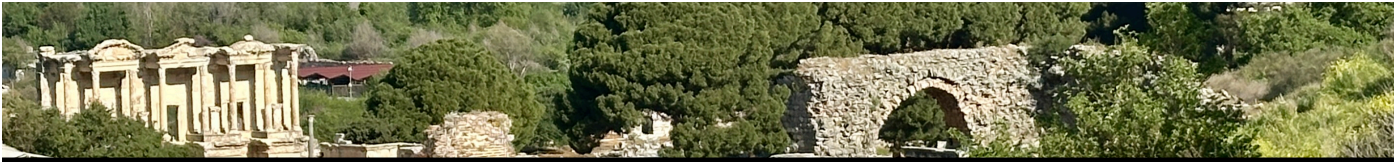
### D. THE MYSTERY OF FOREKNOWLEDGE.

1. MAN'S PERSPECTIVE: God knew *before* (ahead of time)
2. GOD'S PERSPECTIVE: God has *always* known (Omniscient; Eternal)
  - a. **NOTE**: From *man's* perspective, God knew *before* ("ahead of time"), but from *God's* perspective, He has *always* known! This is where the mystery lies. We can't fully comprehend God's foreknowledge!
    - 1) **Illust.** - View of parade - ground vs. helicopter
      - a) Floats = VCHS float; Rincon float; Ridgeview Preschool float; VC Pop Warner float; etc.
3. God predestines *according to* His foreknowledge.
  - a. Cf. 1 Peter 1:2 - "***Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.***"

### E. **NOTE**: TWO WRONG VIEWS of Foreknowledge:

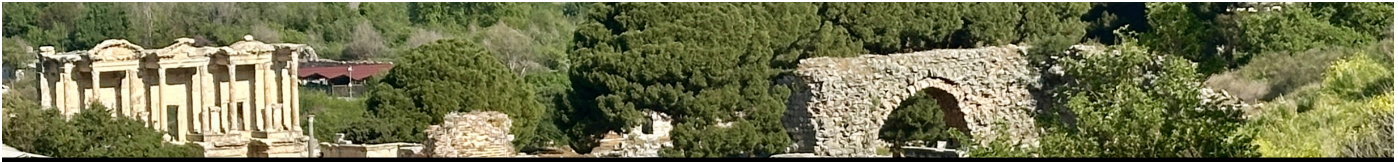
1. God's predestination APART FROM His foreknowledge.





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- a. God is indivisible (simple) in His nature or Being, thus He can never separate His actions from His omniscience.
  - b. In other words, God can't choose something that He doesn't already know!
2. God's predestination BASED ON His foreknowledge.
    - a. God is indivisible (simple) in His nature or Being, thus He cannot be dependent on anything for His knowledge.
    - b. In other words, God can't look to the future to learn who would believe, otherwise He wouldn't be omniscient.
- F. **KEY:** God predestines ACCORDING TO His foreknowledge!
1. You say, "I don't get it!" Join the club of mortal man!
  2. **KEY:** God's predestination and foreknowledge work together simultaneously in His Eternal mind and purpose! ***It's a mystery!***
    - a. Cf. **Acts 2:23** - "*Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*"
    - b. Cf. **Romans 11:33** - "*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how **unsearchable** are his judgments, and **his ways past finding out!***"
  3. **Q** = What would you do with that kind of foreknowledge?...
    - a. You'd go down to Del Mar and bet on every horse that would win the races!
      - 1) **Q** = Would you pick any losers?... No! That would be stupid! You would only choose winners!
    - b. **KEY:** That's what excites me about God! He knows the results, and He doesn't choose losers — and He chose *me!* God only chooses winners! So if He chose you, then you're a winner!

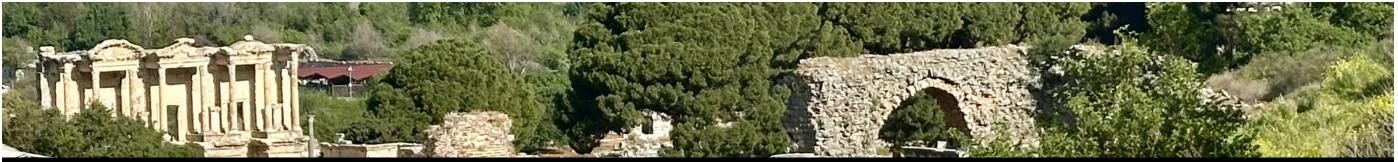


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- G. The fact that God chose me doesn't bother me at all. The thing that I don't get, is that God, knowing everything about me, and the decisions I would make, still *chose me in Him before the foundation of the world!*

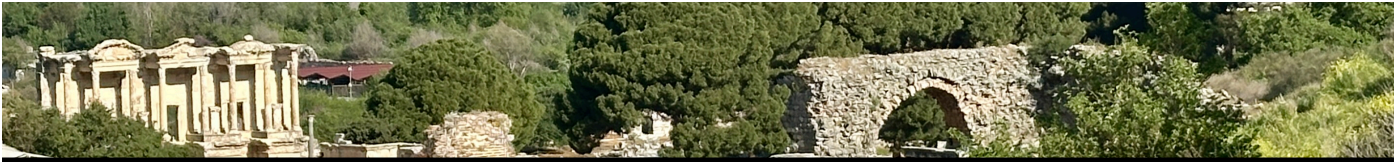
### "that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"

- A. *'holy'* - Gr. *hagious* - "sacred; set apart; pure; consecrated"
1. God has chosen you to *set you apart* from the rest of the world.
    - a. Christians are no longer a part of the world, but we are distinct from it.
  2. **NOTE:** This is why if you are living in sin, you need to evaluate whether or not you are really "*in Christ*". You have been set apart by God as a Christian. It is totally inconsistent to be *holy* and to compromise with the world.
  3. **KEY:** CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO *HOLINESS!*
    - a. This speaks of INWARD holiness.
      - 1) God has chosen you to think purely.
      - 2) God has chosen you to think differently from the world.
      - 3) God has chosen you to have inward consecration.
      - 4) God has chosen you to hate what He hates and love what He loves.
    - b. **Q** = Do you have a desire for inward purity?...
      - 1) Do you want to think wicked thoughts?
      - 2) Do you have a desire to only think on things that are pure?
  4. **KEY:** If you are not holy, you are not a Christian!
    - a. You might say, "But I still sin! I'm not holy!"



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- b. However, if you are "in Christ," you are holy. You cannot separate holiness from being "in Christ." This does not mean that you will never sin again or stumble and fall, but it means that your life is separated unto Christ!
- B. "without blame" - Gr. "faultless"
- 1. This was a word used in the O.T. for the sacrificial lambs. When you brought a lamb to sacrifice, it would be inspected, and if found "*blameless*," then it could be used as an offering.
  - 2. Obviously, we are not *blameless* in our own natural standing, but only in our standing before God "*in Christ*"!
    - a. Cf. **Jude 24** - "*Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,*"
      - 1) In God's eyes, you are *blameless* because you are chosen in Christ!
        - a) He's not inspecting you. He already inspected the Lamb.
        - b) God is not criticizing or inspecting you. You're blameless!
  - 3. Cf. **Ephesians 5:27**
    - a. Cf. **Colossians 1:22, 28** - "*In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: ... Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:*"
    - b. Cf. **Romans 4:8** - To the Romans, Paul wrote quoting David, "*Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*"
  - 4. Cf. **James 1:26-27** - "*If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and*

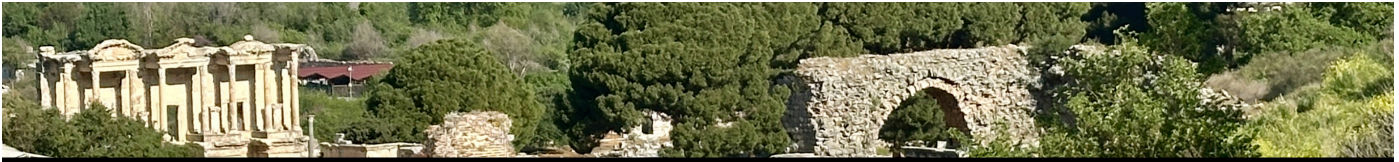


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widows in their affliction, and to keep himself **unspotted** from the world."

5. **KEY:** You need to see your position before God *in Christ* Jesus!
  - a. God sees you *holy* and *without blame* because He sees you in Christ.
  - b. God has imputed to my account righteous, not because I am so good or righteous, but because His Son is good and righteous, and I am *in Him*.
  
- C. "before Him"
  1. "before" - Gr. "in the presence of; in the eye of"
    - a. **Q** = Do you realize that God sees everything in your heart and life?...
    - b. Cf. **Hebrews 4:13** - "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."
      - 1) **NOTE:** It is important to realize that God is not only with us when we gather at church, but that He is always with us and we are always before Him.
      - 2) **KEY:** God always has His eyes on you!
        - a) Cf. **Psalm 139:17-18** - "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee."
        - b) Cf. **2 Chronicles 16:9** - "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars."



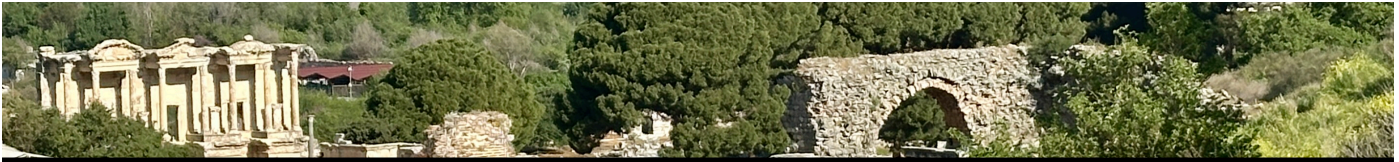


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- c) Cf. **Psalm 34:15** - *"The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry."*
- d) Cf. **Proverbs 5:21** - *"For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings."*
- e) Cf. **Proverbs 15:3** - *"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."*
- f) Cf. **Matthew 10:28-31** - Jesus said, *"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."*
- g) Cf. **1 Peter 3:12** - *"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."*

### D. "in love"

1. As a Christian, you stand before God *in love*.
  - a. In other words, God only deals with you on the basis of His *love*.
    - 1) God is no longer mad at you.
    - 2) He is not condemning you.
    - 3) He sees no fault with you.
    - 4) In His eyes, you are the object of His affection and tenderness.



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- 5) God looks at you with the same affection as His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.
  - b. If only you knew how much God loves you!
    - 1) You need to see how much God loves you! †
2. So many people are dealing with an identity crisis.
  - a. They wonder if they have value.
  - b. They are confused about who they really are.
3. According to the Bible, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you are the object of God's love and affection, and He only deals with you on the basis of that love.
  - a. **NOTE:** The Bible does not really focus on what people think about themselves, but the Bible's focus is on your standing before God and what He thinks about you.
  - b. **KEY:** To have a proper view of self, you cannot start with yourself. You have to start with God!
4. **NOTE:** As you truly discover the love of God toward you, your very character begins to change into a loving person.
5. **KEY:** *God has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him **in love!***