

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Chosen to be Holy

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
May 21, 2023



Ephesians 1:3 (NLT) “All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.”

What do these blessings from our Heavenly Father look like?

- **God chose us in love to become holy like Him.**

Ephesians 1:4 (NLT) “Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.”

1 Peter 1:13-16 (MSG) “So roll up your sleeves, get your head in the game, be totally ready to receive the gift that’s coming when Jesus arrives. Don’t lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. You didn’t know any better then; you do now. As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God’s life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. God said, “I am holy; you be holy.”

- **God adopts us as His own.**

Ephesians 1:5-6 (NLT) “God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.”

- **God forgives us & sets us free.**

Ephesians 1:7-8 (NLT) “He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.”

- **God gives us an inheritance.**

Ephesians 1:9-11 (NLT) “God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. ¹⁰ And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. ¹¹ Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.”

- **God seals us with His Holy Spirit.**

Ephesians 1:12-14 (NLT) “God’s purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. ¹³ And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. ¹⁴ The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.”

Big Idea: God has chosen you – so choose Him!

Philippians 2:12-13 (AMP) So then, my dear ones...continue to work out your salvation [that is, cultivate it, bring it to full effect, actively pursue spiritual maturity] with awe-inspired fear and trembling [using serious caution and critical self-evaluation to avoid anything that might offend God or discredit the name of Christ]. ¹³ For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure.

How can you apply this today?

- **Choose to praise God.**
- **Choose to thank God.**
- **Choose to trust God.**
- **When you praise, & thank, & trust God – you will glorify Him!**



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Chosen to be Holy

#1 of 5 - May 21, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at Micah 6:8 and how God helps us move from confusion to clarity. How has the Lord been speaking to you this week? How did your action step go?
- 2) Read Ephesians 1:3-14. What is the **Context** for these passages? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us and what does this tell us about our identity in Christ?
- 5) Read 1 Peter 1:13-16 and Philippians 2:12-13. What do we learn from this passage about our role in becoming holy? What is the difference between "positional holiness" and "experiential holiness"?
- 6) Read Philippians 2:12-13. What do we learn from this passage about our role in becoming holy? What is God's part and what is our part in this? How does this encourage you today?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this study? (Take some time for Listening Prayer). In what ways can you "Choose God" today so you grow to become more like Him?



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