

Ephesians 1:4
Summary Review

“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love” (NASB)

“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,” (NKJV)

“καθὼς ἐξελέξατο ἡμᾶς ἐν αὐτῷ πρὸ καταβολῆς κοσμοῦ
“just as He chose us in Him before foundation of world

εἶναι ἡμᾶς ἁγίοις καὶ ἀμώμους κατενώπιον αὐτοῦ ἐν ἀγάπῃ” (NA21)
to be us holy and without blame before Him in love” (KMT)

Expanded Translation:

“according to the comparative manner of how He really participated in the action and was affected by the action in a point in time select by choice us in the sphere of Him, an Initiator, before establishment of the world system comprised of created material and immaterial components governed by universal, social, spiritual, and political laws, based on initiation, to perform the continuous type of action to exist in the state of being as a matter of purpose, us, set apart for service as a result of having been ceremonially cleansed, based on initiation, and without spot or blemish that would render something unworthy, based on initiation, in front of the presence of Him, an Initiator, in the sphere of self-sacrificial love that manifests itself in being given regardless of the response it receives and unconditionally pursues that which is best for another as a result of the character and volition of the one loving, based on response...”

Principles:

1. The manner by which God chose believers is compared to the manner by which God blessed believers.
2. God’s blessing of believers with all the spiritual blessings in the heavenly places is in Christ.
3. Outside of Christ no individual can have access or rights to the spiritual blessings of God.
4. God provided spiritual blessings to those who are in Christ as a result of Him having secured the blessings through Christ.
5. God is to be praised as a result of what He has done to provide spiritual blessings to believers in accordance with the manner by which He provided them: putting them in Christ where those who would believe would also be put.
6. Just as in the same manner as providing spiritual blessings in the sphere of Christ, so too God chose believers in the sphere of Christ.
7. This distinction is critical: God did not choose anyone outside of Christ; He only chose those in Christ.
8. Outside of Christ man is in condemnation, unholy, and blemished by the stain and guilt of sin.
9. In Christ, however, the believer is in justification, holy, and unblemished by the stain and guilt of sin.
10. Equally critical is the distinction of what God chose those in Christ for.
11. He did not choose them to be His, to be delivered, or to be redeemed-though each of these descriptions of the believer are accurate in other parts of the New Testament as a result of their faith in Christ.
12. God did choose believers in Christ specifically to be “holy and blameless before Him.”

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13. Thus, God's election of who would be "holy and blameless before Him" is tied to the position that the individual is located in.
14. God did not choose those in condemnation to be "holy and blameless before Him" but, rather, chose those in Christ to be "holy and blameless before Him."
15. This speaks to the manner by which God decided He would justify man as being by means of their standing in or out of Christ.
16. The plan of God to justify man from before the foundation of the universe was tied to Christ.
17. Christ becomes the location in which man receives all the spiritual blessings of the heavenlies and the location by which God justifies man before Him.
18. Since God chose to justify those who are in Christ and not those who are in condemnation then He remains true to His character as the sovereign, eternal, righteous, and loving God that He is.
19. In God's sovereignty He established a plan for the justification of man and put man's justification in Christ.
20. In God's eternalness He established this plan before He even laid the foundation of the universe in which man would exist, fall, and need justification.
21. In God's love He provided a Savior, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, to pay the debt for man's sins and to secure for Himself a people for His own possession.
22. In God's righteousness He promised to justify all those who would rely upon Christ for their salvation.
23. Those who rely upon Christ to have paid their debt for sin are placed into Christ wherein they find they now have access to all the spiritual blessings of the heavenlies and are declared by God to be holy and blameless.
24. This justification is positional rather than experiential.
25. That is, God has declared those who are in Christ to be holy and blameless in His description of them because of their position in the Holy and Blameless One.
26. However, while holy and blameless before God positionally, the believer must learn how to walk as the implement he is that is set apart for service to God through the blood of Christ.
27. Likewise, the believer is to learn to walk in purity as he grows in the grace and knowledge of God.
28. Whether the believer walks out what God has described him as in Christ or not is up to each individual believer.
29. Nevertheless, by virtue of being in Christ as a result of personal volitional reliance upon Him for salvation, the believer has been chosen of God to be holy and blameless.
30. Both the manner by which God blessed believers and chose believers is their position in Christ as a result of faith in Jesus to have paid the debt for their sins.
31. This is available to any whosoever believe.

Conclusion:

Paul links God's provision of spiritual blessings to those who are in Christ to His choosing of believers not to be in Christ, but rather to be holy and blameless as a result of being in Him. The manner by which God provided spiritual blessings is the same manner by which God chooses to justify believers. This is a part of a long list of rights, privileges, and blessings that God has tied to being found positionally in Christ. All who believe are described and partake in every aspect of what God has secured for them in Christ.