

# You IN or You OUT?

Sunday, February 12, 2023 - Ephesians 1:3-10

**Ephesians 1:3-10**

PRAY

**Matthew 10:32-33** “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. “But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

The Foundation and Introduction to this letter is all about who God is and what the Father has done, and, is doing through Christ. – Salvation from God’s perspective.

*Blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.*

**Colossians 3:1** If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Vs. 3 sets the tone for the next few segments of Scripture (for next week and beyond)

**The Blessings in the heavenly places are for those who are IN CHRIST.**

**Those who are** IN CHRIST

- Are chosen
- Are made holy & without blame
- Are predestined to adoption
- Are accepted
- Are redeemed
- Are forgiven

Those who are in Christ

**ARE CHOSEN** (Also happens to be our first landmine)

This means that God **chooses: literally means to pick out.**

**WHO vs. WHAT**

**Speaking of Salvation... He chooses the sin-free**

Announcing the lottery numbers in advance.

*Anyone IN HIM (Jesus) is chosen.*

Now, you have every right to stay spiritually bankrupt and guilty of sin but in the end you will have no excuse.

1. You are right here right now so you in the literal since are hearing this right now and will have no excuse.
2. What about the “you” in a broad sense?

**Romans 1:18-19** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, **because** what may be known of God **is** manifest **in** them, for **God has shown it to them.** (20... so that they are without excuse.)

**Does God pick who will be saved?**

If God did choose or pick, they would have an excuse.

**If it said, chose us (TO BE) in Christ, then the answer would be yes.**

But it does not.

Those who are in Christ

Are **MADE HOLY & WITHOUT BLAME**

*Nothing unholy can survive in the presence of a holy God.*

*Sin is incinerated... no one has seen God and lived.*

**Without blame: unblameable, without fault or faultless**

*Are you saying that if I have not put my faith in Christ, I am to blame? I am guilty?*

I thought that Christ came into the world not to condemn us but to save us. True, but the next verse says that He did not come to condemn you because you are already condemned by your sins.

**Romans 8:1** *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

**MADE** holy... and without blame

Not our own righteousness but the righteousness of Christ

Our righteousness is like filthy rags.

**What's the deal with the cross?**

**Philippians 3:7-9** But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish,

**Paul:** Pharisee of Pharisees, Hebrew of Hebrews, more zealous than brethren (trash)

**You:** built an orphanage, gave money to poor, nice person, planted church, trash  
that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

**Satan is the accuser of the brethren**

*“If Satan reminds you of your past, remind him of his future”*

Landmine number two

Those who are in Christ

**Are PREDESTINED TO ADOPTION**

It is VERY important that we see and understand this passage correctly.

Beware, for some of you there may be the temptation to cling to a preloaded theology that has been pressed into the Bible rather than letting the Bible teach us theology.

**Do you believe in the doctrine of predestination? 100% (but how is it applied?)**

**Predestined:** pre-determined or to decided in advance.

*“Prophecy is just predestination revealed.”*

**Things are predestined, or pre-determined all the time.**

Imagine picking an airplane ticket not knowing where the plane was going.

(verse 5) It is not **WHO** is predestined but **WHAT** they are predestined **TO**.

Imagine someone walks up to you and says, I choose you. I pick you.

The question should come up rather quickly, “**for what?**”

Friend, employee, marriage, enemy... for what?

All those who are IN Christ, God pre-decided to **adopt** them.

It's not like you get to heaven and then God has to figure out what to do with all these people.

**Not a butler, street sweeper, friend, acquaintance, peasant, but a son.**

**John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

**Based on knowledge:**

**Romans 8:29** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

**Wedding Reception**

Those who are in Christ

**Are ACCEPTED**

*(because of His grace) hinting at a workless entry and forgiveness.*

Imagine going to an orphanage, whoever works the hardest can come home with Me.

GRACE: Undeserved favor and blessing.

**Accepted:** seen us as charming, lovely, agreeable. To encompass with favor.

*Blessed with every spiritual blessing...*

**Why would God do all of this?**

Why would a good God desire to redeem and bless sinful people?

It HIS nature:

- (4) *Just as He chose us*, He wanted to, rather than had to.
- (4) *Before Him in love*, rather than debt, or shame, or obligation.
- (5) *According to the good pleasure of His will* (pleased Him)
- (6 & 7) *His grace...* He is abundantly gaceful
- (9) *According to His good pleasure*
- (9) *Which He purposed in Himself*

All according to his abundant riches and grace

*(holding a cup out next to a waterfall)*

Those who are in Christ

**Are REDEEMED**

**Redeem:** to release by payment of ransom. To fulfil a dept or fine.

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life ***in*** Christ Jesus our Lord.

You are free, live like it. **Debt is a bummer!!!** You don't have a debt of sin, it's paid for

**KEY... IN CHRIST!!!**

**Are FORGIVEN**

I want to close by addressing two different people in the room.

1. Those who have already chosen Christ
2. Those who have not yet chosen Christ

**Those who have chosen Christ... you ARE forgiven.**

Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, was reminded one day of a vicious deed that someone had done to her years before. But she acted as if she had never even heard of the incident. ***"Don't you remember it?"*** her friend asked. ***"No,"*** came Barton's reply, ***"I distinctly remember forgetting it."***

Yes... you must reap what you have sown but rather than hang your head in shame and regret, get busy about reconciliation.

*Blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.*

**Colossians 3:1** If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

### **What if I am not IN Christ? Then you are**

Not adopted – you'll be wandering through life keenly aware of your loneliness

Redeemed – Stuck in the mire of the world

Forgiven – still guilty and when the door of this life closes you shall bear the weight of your wrong doings for all of eternity.

*You are dead in your trespasses.*

### **Those who have not yet chosen Christ**

**What will you do when you see God? What will you say?**

**Now... if you are to be forgiven, you must have first needed forgiveness.**

### **Receiving forgiveness requires three things**

- **Requires acknowledgment**
- **Requires humility**
  - Some people will miss forgiveness because they were too prideful to receive help
- **Requires acceptance**
  - Will you accept Him as Lord and Savior?

**Romans 10:9-10** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

### **Choose: Decision time: Are you in or are you out? In Christ or Out of Christ?**

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.