

“Chosen In Christ!”
Ephesians 1:4

Introduction:

1. Completed A Series Of Messages That Described For Us:
 - “What It Is Like To Be United With Jesus Christ!”
 - If You Are A Christian, You ARE United With Christ!
 - If You Are A Christian, Your Union With Christ Is Like:
 - **A Building** - You Are Part Of The Building Of Jesus Christ, The Cornerstone!
 - **A Branch** - You Are One Of The Branches Of Jesus Christ, The True Vine!
 - **A Body** - You Are A Member Of The Body Of Jesus Christ, The Head Of His Body!
 - **A Bride** - You Are The Bride Of Jesus Christ, The Faithful Husband!
 - **A Birth** - You Are Born Into The Family Of Christ, Through A New Birth, Into A New Spiritual Family, And With A New Life!
 - **A Bond** - You Are Able To Fellowship With Jesus Christ, As Christ Has Fellowship With His Father In Heaven!
 - **A Flock** - You Are A Sheep That Follows The Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ!
 - These Figures / Illustrations Reveal A **RICHNESS** Of Fellowship That A Christian **CAN** Have With Jesus Christ!
2. Now, We Begin A New Search Into This Wonderful & Mysterious Doctrine!
 - “What Does It Mean To Be United With Christ?”
 - Remember That: Your Union With Christ Is Broad!
 - It Covers Many Facets Of Your Life As A Christian!
 - **IE:** Like The Cutting Of A Diamond
 - Millard Erickson: “In One Sense, Union With Christ Is An Inclusive Term For The Whole Of Salvation; The Various Other Doctrines Are Simply Subparts!”
3. The Facet We Will Explore For The Next Several Sundays Is:
 - The Facet Of Your **Positional Union With Christ!**
 - Or Simply, Your Position In / With Jesus Christ!
 - **IE:** Position - “The Way In Which Something Is Placed” - Consider Your “Place” Or “Position” At Work Or At School - When I Was Hired, I Was Given A “Position” In My Company - I Now Am Part Of This Company, I Work For This Company, I Represent This Company - I Receive Many Benefits For This Company - I Am Placed “IN” This Company - Who I Am & What I Do Now IS The Company!
 - **When You Are United With Christ, It Is A Positional Union! You Are Placed IN Jesus Christ!**
 - This Means That “When The Father Evaluates Or Judges Us Before The Law, He Does Not Look Upon Us Alone! We Are In His Sight One With Christ!” (Millard Erickson)
4. But How Do Christians Become United With Christ?
 - This Morning, We Will Look At The Foundation Of This Union!
 - According To Ephesians 1:
 - **Every Christian Is Chosen In Christ!**
 - Ephesians 1:3-6 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 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: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”
 - Focus On Verse 4!
5. If You Are United With Christ, You Have Been:
 1. **Chosen Out!**
 - “He Hath Chosen”
 - To Pick Out!
 - **IE:** Have You Ever Seen A Police Line-Up? Hopefully You’ve Never Been A Part Of One -

Most Have Seen It Reenacted On Television - Read A Story Of One Line Up - "Police in Los Angeles had good luck with a robbery suspect, who just couldn't control himself during a lineup. Detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words, "Give me all your money or I'll shoot." - One of them, when it was his turn, shouted, "That's not what I said!" - Probably Not A True Story! - Police Lineup - 1 Guilty Person / All Rest Are Innocent Of The Charge - When God Chose You Out, You Were Part Of A "Reverse Line-Up" - ALL WERE GUILTY, BUT GOD PICKED YOU OUT ANYWAYS!

- What Did He Pick You Out From?

- ***He Chose You Out Of The World!***

- John 15:19 - "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

- No Longer Part Of The Crowd – The "Line-Up"!

- ***He Chose You Out Of Sin!***

- 1 Peter 2:9 - "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light!"

- ***He Chose You Out Of Destruction!***

- Through Salvation - 2 Thessalonians 2:13 - "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth!"

- No Longer Part Of The Sentence!

* If You Are United With Christ, You Have Been Chosen Out!

* Are You ***Thankful*** That God Has Chosen / Picked You Out?

* If You Are United With Christ, You Have Also Been:

2. ***Chosen For God Himself!***

- ***IE:*** Have You Ever Seen Somebody Buy Something & Think - "Why Would Anyone Want That?!" - People Have Different Tastes, Opinions & Reasons For Buying The Things They Do - They Buy Those Things For Themselves - Independent Choice / Independent Reasons / Independent Use!

- When You Truly Realize That God Did Choose You, You Will Wonder: "Why Would Anyone, Especially God, What Me?!"

- The Answer Is - He Chose You For Himself!

- ***His Choice Is His Own!***

- Exodus 33:18-19 - "And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. 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." - An Important Principle & Characteristic Of God, Repeated In Romans 9:15 - "For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

- ***His Reason Is His Own!***

- 2 Timothy 1:9 - "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began!"

- There Is Absolutely Nothing That We Have Done Or Could Do To Influence His Choice!

- ***IE:*** Many Times Our Choices Are Influenced By Others! But Not God's!

- ***His Use Is His Own!***

- Ephesians 1:5-6 - "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved!"

- "Believer's Were Chosen For The Lord's Glory Before They Were Chosen For Their Own Good!" (John MacArthur)

* If You Are United With Christ, You Have Been Chosen For God Himself!

- We Don't Know Why God Chooses Us! There Is No Reason For God To Choose Us!

* Does This ***Humble*** You Before God? Bring You To Your Knees?

* We Don't Know Why God Chooses Us! But We Certainly Know How God Chooses Us!

* If You Are United With Christ, You Have Been:

3. Chosen In Him!

- In Jesus Christ!

- Always Remember: Without Christ, None Could Be Chosen!

- Christ Is The One Through Whom God Could Choose His People!

- **Through His Identity!**

- We Are Not Chosen By Who We Are But Through Who He Is!

- Matthew 16:15-16 - "He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!"

- **Through His Merits!**

- We Are Not Chosen By What We Have Done But Through What He Has Done!

- He Is The Pure Lamb Of God!

- 1 Peter 1:18 - "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot!"

- **Through His Sacrifice!**

- We Are Not Chosen By What We Give Up But Through What He Gave Up For Us!

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 - "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

* If You Are United With Christ, You Have Been Chosen In Christ!

* How Do You *Esteem* / *Value* Him? Without Him, You Could Not Have Been Chosen!

* If You Are United With Christ, You Have Been:

4. Chosen Before Time!

- **IE:** All Our Choices Are Made *IN* Time! There Are Reasons For & Circumstances Surrounding Our Choices - We Choose To Marry, Because We Are In Love - We Choose A New Car, Because Our Old One Broke Down - We Choose A College, Because Of The Price

- The Amazing Thing About God's Choice, Is That:

- "He Hath Chosen Us In Him Before The Foundation Of The World!"

- His Mind Was On You Before He Even Said "Let There Be Light!"

- **He Prepared A Savior For You Before Time!**

- 1 Peter 1:20 - "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you!"

- **He Prepared A Home For You Before Time!**

- Matthew 25:34 - "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world!"

* If You Are United With Christ, You Have Been Chosen Before Time!

* A Christian Should Be *Overwhelmed* By This Thought! An Eternal & Infinite God Thought Of Me, A Mortal, Finite, Insignificant & Sinful Creature, Before I Was Created, And Even Before Anything Was Created!

* If You Are United With Christ, You Have Also Been:

5. Chosen For Holiness!

- "That We Should Be Holy And Without Blame Before Him In Love!"

- **IE:** After Waiting 15 Years To Have A Child, Gerald Penix, A Pastor In Texas, & His Wife Decided To Adopt A Child - As He Stood Before The Judge To Complete The Adoption Process, The Judge Said:

"From today on, he is your son. He may disappoint you, even grieve you but he is your son. Everything you own one day will be his and he will bear your name."

- Because We Are United With Christ, In God's Eyes, We Are "Holy And Without Blame"!

- In The Sight Of God:

- **The Holiness Of Christ Is Your Holiness!**

- **The Blamelessness Of Christ Is Your Blamelessness!**

- **This Is Now A Positional Holiness!**

- This Is How God Sees Us Because We Are United With His Son, Jesus Christ!

- This Can / Should Be A Practical Holiness!

- 1 Peter 1:15-16 - "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

- This Will Be A Permanent Holiness!

* If You Are United With Christ, You Have Been Chosen For Holiness!

* What A Tremendous **Hope** This Is!

- 1 John 3:2 - "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

Conclusion:

1. Remember Ephesians 1:4 - "He hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love!"
- If You Are A Christian - If You Are United With Christ - You Are Chosen In Jesus Christ!
2. This **Choice** Made By God Is The Foundation Of All The Blessings We Have From God Through Jesus Christ!
- What An Amazing Privilege!
- **IE:** My Cousin Was Adopted Into Her Family - She Would Say, "I'm Adopted" - When She Was Told This, She Was Discouraged & Upset - My Grandmother Encouraged Her By Telling Her That Her Parents Chose Her! - After This, She Would Say, "**I'M ADOPTED!**"
- She Was Grateful & Thankful For Being Chosen!
- She Didn't Understand Completely **How** She Was Adopted, Or What It **Meant** To Be Adopted - But She Did Know That She Was Chosen! And Her Life Was Never The Same After That!
3. If You Are A Christian, You Have Been **Chosen** In Christ!
- You May Not Completely Understand **HOW** You Are Chosen!
- You May Not Completely Understand **WHY** You Are Chosen!
- You May Not Completely Understand What It **Means** To Be Chosen!
- But, When You **BELIEVE** This Truth, Your **Life IN & Relationship WITH** Your Savior, Jesus Christ, Will Never Be The Same!

Invitation:

1. Do You Know That You Have Been Chosen?
- As 1 John 5:13 Says, You "May Know That Ye Have Eternal Life!"
- If You Do Not Know, You Can Know! You Can Make Sure You Know! Through Belief & Faith In Jesus Christ Alone For Salvation From Your Sin!
2. Do You Live Like You Have Been Chosen?

Grace Baptist Church of Mohawk

Stephen Elmer, Pastor

4245 North 200 West

Greenfield, Indiana 46140

317-326-2362

pastor-elmer@hotmail.com

www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace