

3. Particularly Related to the 3 Persons of the Godhead
 - a. The Father (Jn.3:16)
 - I Jn.4:9, 10 *In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.* 4:10 *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
 - b. The Son
 - Jn.10:11, 15 *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.* 10:15 *As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.*
 - Eph.5:2 *And walk in love as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma*
 - Heb.12:2 *looking unto Jesus the author and the finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endure the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
 - c. The Holy Spirit
 - Jn. 14-15 (14:26; 15:26; 16:7-15), The Holy Spirit is the “Helper” (“another Helper”) that Jesus said the Father would send.
 - It is the Holy Spirit who “effectually calls” the elect of God – convincing, enlightening, renewing, persuading and enabling .
 - It is the Holy Spirit that applies, to the elect of God, Christ’s accomplished redemption at the God’s appointed time. Titus 3:5,
 - It is the Holy Spirit that resides in every born-again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ – Jn.14:17, 18; Rom.8:9-11

II. The Believer’s Choice and Commitment in Marriage

- A. To single (unmarried) men and women, whose choice of a life-partner IS YET to be made.
- B. To married men and women, whose choice of a life-partner HAS BEEN made. The person to whom you are presently married IS “your choice” and you are to be committed to her, loving her *just as Christ* also loved the church and gave Himself for her.

Biblical Love

With Choice Comes Commitment

PBC Sunday PM 1/12/2020

Our main Scripture text: Eph.1:3-14 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 1:4 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, 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 1:8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 1:9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 1:10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth – in Him. 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 1:12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

I. God’s Choice and Commitment

A. God’s Choice Biblically substantiated

1. From our main text: Eph.1:4 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,
2. From other Scripture passages:
 - a. Mk.13:20 *And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but the elect’s sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.*
 - b. 2 Thes.2:13 *But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,*

c. Additional references: 2 Tim.1:9; I Ki.8:16; Jn.13:18; Jn. 15:16; Acts 9:15; Rom.16:13; I Cor.1:27, 28; I Pet.2:9

B. The Basis of God's Choice: "Pure and Free Grace" =>

God's undeserved love and favor

1. From our main text: **scarlet bold print** in 1:5-7, 9, 11
2. From other Scripture passages: Eph.2:4, 5;
 - o Eph.2:8 *For **by grace** you are saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is **the gift of God**, lest any man should boast.*
 - o 2 Tim.1:9 *who has **saved us** and **called us** with a holy calling, not according to our works, but **according to His own purpose and grace** which **was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began**, Also Titus 3:5-7*

C. The Goal of God's Choice:

1. In terms of the elect (particular sinners) being made eternally acceptable to God (right with God) –
 - a. From our main text: **phrases in green print** in Eph. 1:5, 6, 10, 11, 13b-14a
 - b. WHY would God do this for these chosen sinners?
 - "...to the praise of the glory of His grace," 1:6
 - "...to the praise of His glory." 1:12, 14
 - c. HOW MANY blessings do the elect possess?
Answer: "*who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places...*" 1:3
 - d. HOW did God accomplish this goal? Ans.: "*...in Christ,*" > 1:3-7, 9-13
2. In terms of the bride of Christ being made acceptable and ready for her wedding day – Eph.5:25-32 *Husbands love your wives, **just as Christ** also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 5:26 that He might **sanctify and cleanse her** with the washing of water by the word, 5:27 that He might **present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.** 5:28 *So Husband ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but **nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord** does the church. 5:30 *for we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 5:31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall***

*become **one flesh.**" 5:32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

o From our main text: **phrases in green print**

- D. The Obstacle (the difficulty) standing in the way of God's choice being made a reality and the goal of that choice being achieved (attained): our SIN. Sin IS any lack of conformity unto or transgression of the law of God.
 - o Rom.3:10-12 *As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one; 3:11 they is none who seeks after God. 3:12 They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one." Also Rom.3:13-19; 3:23; Jn.3:19*
 - o Rom.8:7, 8 *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8:8 *So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**
- E. The Commitment God made to righteously overcome that obstacle (difficulty) standing in the way of Him attaining His desired goal for His elect people.
 1. Generally Stated
 - o I Pet.1:18-21 *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 1:19 **but with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1:20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times for you*
 2. Doctrinally Explained:
 - a. Salvation – presumes being lost and someone finding you; it presumes being in danger and someone rescuing you from that danger
 - b. Redemption – presumes being in bondage and someone paying the price for your release from that bondage
 - c. Propitiation – presumes being under the wrath of God for not obeying (keeping; negative: for breaking, transgressing against) God's law, and that wrath being satisfied (removed) by the execution of the righteous penalty of God's law against those lawless actions
 - d. Reconciliation – presumes being alienated from God and that alienation being ended by the removal of the sinner's enmity against God and the love of God being poured into his/her heart