

CHOSEN AND BLESSED

Ephesians 1:3-12

I. BLESSING GOD THE FATHER FOR BLESSING US

A. The God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Ps 2:7, 10 ; 2 Sam 7:14 ; Mat 3:17; Heb 1:5)—Jesus in His Messianic role—Christ, the “Son of God”

B. Blessed in Christ ()—our relationship with God the Father because we are united to Jesus Christ

C. With Every Spiritual Blessing (Jas 1:17)—spiritual (not worldly)

D. In the Heavenly Places ()—unseen spiritual realm in which we participate

II. ELECTION & PREDESTINATION (Rom 8:28-30; 9:8-24)—in eternity past God chose/selected those who will be saved

A. God’s Choice

1. Before the Foundation of the World (Rom 9:11; Rev 13:8; Ps 139:13-18)

2. His Will (His Good Pleasure) (Ps 115:3; Jer 1:5; Jn 1:12-13; 6:37, 44; 15:16; Rom 10:13;)—emphasizes God’s sovereign will/choice
—> Foreknowledge—to love that person ahead of time.

3. In Love (Deut 7:6-8; Isa 43:3-4; Jer 31:3; 1 Jn 4:19)

B. God’s Plan—not making it up as He goes

1. Jesus was always the plan. (Rev 13:8)

2. Nothing can thwart God’s plan for those He has chosen. (Ps 33:11; Dan 4:35; Act 13:48; Isa 14:24, 27; Prov 19:21; Jn 6:37-39; Rom 8:29-30)

- C. **God's Grace**—grace is undeserved favor granted by superior to inferior
1. **Unmerited**—We did not earn it
 2. **Rich**—not limited by emotional makeup or wealth and resources
 3. **Lavished grace upon Us** —not sparing, grudging or the bare minimum

D. **God's Purpose**

1. That we should be **holy and blameless** before Him
 - a. **justification** (Gal 2:16; Col 1:22; Rom 9:11; Eph 5:25-27)—He chose us for adoption in order to give us the *relationship* in which He sees us as holy and blameless.
 - b. **sanctification** (Phil 1:6; Phil 2:12-13; Ps 138:8)—He chose us in order to *make us* holy, acceptable in His sight; He will see it through.
 - c. **glorification** (Rom 8:30; Jude 1:24)—the end goal and condition; *We will be* holy and blameless both in *status* and in *quality of character*.
2. To the **praise of His glorious grace** and for His glory—
All the glory belongs to God; this is His character.

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever...” (Deut 29:29).

“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain!” (Ps 139:6).