

Title: Chosen By God

Text: Ephesians 1:3-4

Take your Bibles and turn, please, to Ephesians chapter 1. There are notes in your Bulletin. I would encourage you to use them as we study the Word of God together.

(Read Ephesians 1:3-4)

Join me in a moment of prayer

Last Sunday we ~~looked at the reasons why~~ ^{learned that, according to vs 3,} we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings. That God has blessed us with everything that we need at the moment we received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

Now, I want to start ~~look~~ ^{looking} at some of those blessings. Remember, now, that they are spiritual blessings, not material. But, I want to look at some of those wonderful spiritual blessings that God has given to us. And they are found, here, in the first chapter of Ephesians.

The first blessing centers around this little word "chosen."

Vs 4 says "He Chose us in Him."

Now, when we think of this word "chosen" we have a little problem. We have all been conditioned or programmed, to some degree, to miss the real meaning of this word.

~~Let me share with you~~ ^{Let me share with you} some common questions related to "chosen" and maybe you will then understand why this is a problem.

People often ~~ask~~ ^{ask} "If God knows who will be saved, then does he chose them when they receive Christ or does He do that before they are born?....."

Here is another question: ^{Since} God knows who will be saved, ~~then~~ ^{now} does that foreknowledge determine it, regardless of one's decision?

Here is another question that is often ask concerning the meaning of the word "chosen". ^{This verse indicates that IT IS} ~~is it is already settled~~ ^{settled} as to who will be saved, why should we pray or witness to anyone? As a matter of fact, why should we send any missionaries?"

One other question "If we are chosen by God, does that mean that some are chosen to go to Hell? And how does that match with the love and mercy and grace of God?"

As the medical student who was interested that kind

All of these are good questions. They are very, very important questions. ^{And} I can't in one message tell you everything that people have written about the subject. And I can't really deal with all the ramifications of ~~the~~ your questions. The one thing that we can do is to look at what the Bible says. There have been books written that have tried to show both sides of this problem. The sovereignty of God. Doing what he wants to do. And the responsibility of man, seemingly free to choose.

One book is called DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY AND HUMAN FREEDOM. And the book attempts to solve that problem.

Someone has said that there are parallel minds going through eternity and they never intersect. Man being ask to believe both of them.

Can something be true in your mind and mine, can something be true when all the facts don't match? Is it possible to say, "that the sovereignty of God and the human responsibility that we have, are both true. And yet, never really come together in ~~the~~ our minds.

I remind you that human understanding is finite. We do not know as God' knows. *I would like us to just put aside all of our preconceived ideas about the meaning of "Chosen" and*

So, we are going to attempt to ~~just~~ let the scripture speak to our hearts and understanding. ^{not} I know I will not answer all questions.

Now, the key ^{phrase} word is in Vs 4, "HE CHOOSE US". What does it mean "to choose?" *From the word we get in English word* ~~That word if you just say it into English is our word "elect."~~

We speak about the "elect." People develop doctrines as to whether Christ died only for the " ~~the~~ "elect", or did he died also for the "non-elect." I kind-of like what D.L. Moody said, "those who are the elect are the "I will's". Those who are the non-elect are the "I won't's."

I kind of like that ~~Now, that doesn't really explain it for everybody.~~ But what does it mean to "choose"? What does it mean when it says that you are one of the choosen of God?

There are six forms of that Greek word used in the N.T. 56 times. It is not a small subject.

By the time of Plyto, the Greek philosopher, the word meant "political elections."....

me

out

The word was also used of drafting men into military service.

There is an interesting ^{epitaph} epitaph over the grave of a former pastor of the church of Laodicea, which is mentioned in the Bible. He died in 340 A.D. The man's name is Julais Eugenius. And on his grave stone is this phrase: "TO BE MY GRAVE AND THAT OF THE ELECT FROM MY RACE."

The reason that is an interesting ~~usage~~ usage of the word "elect" is because early christianity came to believe the elect are believers and the non-elect are not. Some members of his family were still pagans. Therefore, he said, this family grave is to be used only for the elect from my race. He didn't want any of his other family members to use it, if they had not come to believe in Jesus Christ.

Let me just share a few passages ⁱⁿ the Bible to give you ^{an understood} a feeling ^{the meaning of} about this word "chosen." ^{and what it really means}

(1) For example, the Bible uses the word relating to the nation of Israel. In Deut. chapter 7 God says of the nation of Israel that they are a "chosen people" out-of all the nations of the world.

Now, let me ask you a question. Does that mean that the ^{other} nations of the world could not be saved?Oh, No...As a matter of fact, many out-of the nations of the world are to be saved, according to what God said to Abraham when he said, "In thee shall all nations of the world be blessed."

Well, what does it mean when it says that Israel was chosen by God out of all the nations of the world? It means that God choose them to exalt something of his own character. His faithfulness to a group of people who ^{were} ~~was~~ very unfaithful to Him. And to demonstrate his love to them. And to use them as ^{an} ~~a chosen~~ instrument to spread his message to un-believing nations. [Jerusalem, ^{for example} the city, is called "the place that I have chosen to exalt my name." God says it several times in the O.T.

In Deut ^{and} in 2 Chronicles, it mentions the city of Jerusalem as being "elected or chosen" by God for a ~~special~~ special purpose.

^{The word} It is also used of Jacob, himself. In Isa. 41 it calls Jacob, ~~him~~ in contrast to Esau, "the one God choose."

Does that mean that Esau and his descendance could never be saved?

NO ~~NOT~~ / ~~BAHAHAHA~~ But God choose Jacob as the one through whom the Messiah would come. *a special purpose*
 Another *Another* example. *The Word chosen* It is used of the tribe of Levi, the priest. God choos and elected one tribe to be holy and special before him. That is recorded in Deut chapter 18:1-5. Does that mean that the rest of the tribes couldn't be saved? NO!!! God choose them, elected them, for a special ministry and purpose, *To Be The Priest*

It is also used of king ~~Saw~~ *Saul* and King David. This one might surprise you Because a lot of believers in reading this story of King Saul find the Jews asking God for a king when *at times* He didn't want them *to give one*. At least it seems that way. But, yet, the Bible says in I Samuel 10:24 that king Saul was chosen. And the word is "elect" or "chosen by God!" for that role as king.

Does that mean that ~~know~~ *No* one else chuld be saved? Of course not! He was chosen for a special purpose! *To Be King*

Well, what about David? The Bible says several times about King David that he was "God's chosen or elected king." Again, does that mean that other kings are not saved? Of course not!!!

It is also used, by the way, of Jesus Christ, both in the O.T. and in the N.T. In Isa chapter 42, it calls the Messiah "My chosen one, my elected one."

out But, I want you to turn to a N.T. passage about Jesus to see how the word "elect" is used. Turn, please, to Luke. Luke chapter 9....

I think a lot of us when we read "chosen" automatical read "chosen to be saved". And that those who are not chosen are not saved. *That is ridiculous*

In Luke chapter 9 verse 35...This is when Jesus was on the Mt. of Transfiguration with Peter, James, and John. Vs 35 says "And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my son, my chosen one.' " ~~That is the word "elect"~~. Same word in Ephesians 1:4...

Now, does that mean that Christ needed to be saved?.....Of course not... He didn't need to be saved. But he is called the "~~elect one~~" "the chosen one" of God.

out It is also used of Jesus in I Peter 2. It callse him the "chosen one."

In the great superstructure that God is building in which we are stones and He is the ^{1-Head} foundation, ~~He~~ ^{Jesus} is the choice, chosen servant of God.

Some other interesting usages of this ^{word} is found in the N.T. as it relates to the Apostles. Example: all 12 of the apostles are said to be "^{Chosen} ~~elect~~"...But I remind you that one of them was a devil. One of them was called the son of perdition named Judas. Yet, Jesus said that he "choose" all 12 of them. He elected all 12. That is found in Luke 6:13.

In John 6:70 Jesus said, "Did I not choose you? Yet, one of you is a devil."

What I am trying to say is this: Obviously one of the ones that Christ choose is not going to be in heaven. So, when you think of the word "chosen" or "elect" remember ^{its} ~~it~~ is primarily ^{Meaning} used as "chosen for a paritulary pupose." *That is what it means. It doesn't mean "to be saved or be saved"* ~~Don't be automatic in what you conclude about that.~~

Here is another example: After Judas hung himself and the disciples later were gathered in the upper room, they are going to chose a replacement And they cast lots because there were two men, there, who meet the qualifications. A man named Joseph. And a man named Matthias. They cast lots which according to Proverbs 16:33 was scriptural. The casting of the lot as a determination of God's will was according to the Lord.

They didn't know which one God was going to choose. So they said, "Lord, you know all hearts. You choice the one you want." Matthias is the chosen one. It is the same word "elect".

Did that mean that ~~Joseph~~ Joseph, the other man, was not a good man? NO!!!...Did it mean that he was going to hell?...NO!!!...He was a believer... It meant that Matthias was chosen for a special purpose. To serve with the 12 that Jesus had appointed, replacing Judas.

Another example: It is used, also, of the Apostle Paul. And I would like you to see this one. Turn, please, to Acts chapter 9. Acts 9...You will find that word "elect" or "chosen" used in a lot of different ways. Like in Luke 10 where Mary and Maratha entertain Jesus in their home. And Mary sat at the feet of Jesus. And the Bible says "Mary choose the good part which should not be taken away from her." Again, she elected it.

It is used in Luke 14 where people were choosing the honored places at the table. The word "choose" is used in a lot of different ways. The early church chose 7 men to help with the responsibilities in Acts chapter 7. The early church chose 2 men named Judas and Silas to take a message from Jerusalem to Antioch. And it is simply the word "to elect them". It is not indicating preference over others. It is indicating special purpose of their ministry.

In the Apostle Paul's case we read in Acts chapter 9 verse 15 "But the Lord said to him (that is Ananias), Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine."

And here is one of those ^{good} ~~good~~ text to understand the word "chosen", because it includes the purpose. "To bear my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake."

OK What does the word "chosen" mean in this verse? Does it mean that Paul is saved and others are not?....NO!!!!...God chose him for a special purpose to bear his message before Gentiles and kings and sons of Israel. He also chose him to suffer greatly for the cause of Jesus Christ...

~~Chosen...elected...It is used in many, many different ways.~~

It is also used of the church of Jesus Christ. Turn to I Peter 2:9...

I Peter chapter 2 verse 9. It is used of the church. Those who have come to know Christ as their saviour. *God has a purpose for the church* I Peter 2:9...Please notice the special

M purpose that God has as to why he chose us.

Does this mean that he didn't choose some believers in the O.T.?

Of course not...It means that the church has a special ~~purpose~~ *purpose*

1 Peter 2:9..."But you are a chosen race." Same word "elected"... "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God own possession."...WHY?...."That you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Now, a lot of people think that because God chose and made that decision at some point in the past, that ~~therefore~~ *therefore* we have no reason to be a witness for him. ~~Therefore~~ *And*, we have no reason for missions.

being thought

I find just the ~~the~~ opposite in the N.T. That God chose people in order that his message would be sent to the whole world. It is to bear witness. It is to ~~share~~ share the message of ~~the~~ *the Gospel J.C.*

Well, there are many, many usages of the word "elect." But, let's come back to Ephesians 1..

Now

Vs 4 says..."Just as He chose us in him before the foundation of the world..." Last ~~time~~ *week* I ~~shared~~ *shared* with you the significance of Vs 3 when it says "we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing." In Christ we have everything that we could possible want, ~~And the conclusion is that YES, we do have everything,~~ whether we appropriate it for ourselves or not. We are holy, we are set apart, we are perfect in christ.

Some people have ~~said~~ ask, "Does that mean that we can go out and do whatever we want to?" Of course not....

Because we have a position in Christ does not mean that we can continue to sin. ~~As~~ *No* As a matter of fact, God's word teaches that those who continue to sin, and yet argue that I am a chosen person, they are only giving evidence that they have never really been born again. {The one who is a true believer is the one who responds to the ministry of the Holy Spirit and his word. It is the one who desires to live for the Lord. Not to go against God's purpose, not to just go your own way, and believe that you are secure no matter what you do, that is not true of the one who really understands God's program and ^{his} position in Christ. You

Now You are blessed with every spiritual blessing. ~~Now~~ why?....

Look at those first two words of Vs 4 very carefully.... "JUST AS"... Literally, it means "in absolute conformite to what was just said." It means "the reason why you and I have every blessing is because we were chosen. It means that if we ~~were~~ *had been* not chosen by God, we would not have every blessing. I have every spiritual blessing that God wants to give me.... WHY?....Because I am chosen in Him before the foundation of the world.

Now, let's ~~take~~ *Look out* first of all, the point at which God choses us. It seems obvisouse from Ephesaisn 1:4 . It says, "He chose us in Him, ~~before~~ *when?* before the foundation of the world."

Before

The word "foundation" seemingly means "to throw something down." Before he laid down the entire world system, long before Adam and Eve were created God made a decision. He chose us in him before the foundation of the world.

Here is where the great argument comes among people. And ~~listen~~ listen carefully. Then apply it to your own life. *Because this is one of those spiritual blessings*

Question Is this a settled decision before the world was ever made? That is only operative when the person believes in Christ?....Or...does it depend ~~upon~~ solely upon the decision that God made?

Now, let me show you why that is important. Some people say that God has in his will and plans selected a certain number of people to be saved in order to praise him. Let's suppose it is a thousand people. Just for the sake of illustration.

Now, all the way through history those people are coming to Christ. And according to the teaching of some, that idea of "chosen" only applies to the ~~group~~ group of one thousand. As to who belongs to that group depends upon whether or not you and I receive Christ. I hope you followed that. This is a very strong opinion among most evangelical preachers.....

The opinion is: that God chose a group of people, whom we call the church, or all the believers of this age, no matter how many there are, God knows the number. And as the gospel is given to this age, people who respond to Christ, at the moment of conversion, you are then one of the chosen....IS THAT TRUE?... *No it isn't*

I believe that is incorrect based upon what Vs 4 says.

Vs 4 says that God made this decision before the foundation of the world. ⁵⁰ Do we become "chosen" because we believe in Christ?, Or, do we accept Christ because we are chosen?

I believe the later is true. The reason why you and I received the Lord Jesus is because we were chosen.

The answer to why we are saved is not found in men. It is found in God. As to why anyone will be saved in the history of the world is because God made the decision. *God desires that non-should put all should have*

dependence - He has chosen all people - Some respond - Some do not.

Dear Friends

you are

ourselves

We are

Let's, listen, ~~man~~ left to ~~himself~~ cannot make that decision. He is spiritually dead in sin according to the Bible. ~~We have~~ no ability and no capability to respond to God. Unless God, the Holy Spirit, works in a person's life there is no way that that person can respond to the Lord..NO WAY...

WHAT IS THE POINT AT WHICH GOD CHOSE US?

The point is before the world was ever made, ~~it is not dependent upon your decision to receive Christ.~~ ~~It is dependent upon God's decision to receive you.~~ *He chose you, and just moves that he chose you*

Let ~~me~~ show you an example. Turn to Romans chapter 9...Now, some of you look very concerned...Stay with me, please. Romans chapter 9. Here is a good illustration to the fact that God chooses us before we ever make that decision ourselves. Romans chapter 9 beginning at Vs 10....

Paul is laying out his argument as to why God has not rejected Israel. Why they have a special place in God's program. Paul is talking about the patriarchs. And in says in Vs 10.....(Read Vs 10-13)

and

Now, that is a strange passage. But let me review very simply what the Bible says. And don't get in a fight with me. Get in a fight with the Bible. The Bible says in those verses that God made a decision as to which one of those sons he would chose for the Messiah before the sons were born. God says in Vs 11 that it was not dependent upon ~~whether~~ whether or not those sons had done anything ~~in~~ good or bad.

I am sure that if you have shared Christ with people you have run across this attitude. ~~A lot of people believe that if you make it to heaven, it is because you have done more good in your life than bad.~~

You might have that philosophy. And I say to you. Lots of luck.. Because in the divine plan, that is ridiculous.

How much good does a person have to do to get to heaven? Or, let me ask it another way. How many sins does it take to send a person to hell?

Answer: just one....whether you have sinned once or a thousand, all have sinned, the Bible says, and come short of the glory of God.

The standard is not man. That you are better than other men. The standard is God. And his absolute holiness and perfection.

Without Christ there is no hope. But a lot of people wholed this view.

Yet, this verse says that God chose ^{us} ~~them~~ before ^{we were} they ~~were~~ born. Chose ^{us} ~~them~~ before ^{we} they had a chance to do anything good or bad. It even tells you the reason. So, that the whole decision would be God's call, not the bases of something that man does. *Man! You TALK about The grace of God -*

So, again, the point at which God chooses us is found in the council and the mind of God before He made the world. The decision was made. It is done. It is settled....

() Now, why did God chose us? What is the purpose of God in all of this.

WHY DID GOD CHOSE US BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD. ~~This text give us a few answers.~~

~~(1)~~ ^{well} First, to garantee our perfection. Vs 4 says, "He chose us in Him befor the foundation of the world, that we should be Holy and blameless before Him."

Fantastic.....God doesn't leave it up to us to be holy and blameless.

In fact, he doesn't even trust us to do that. It is His plan that makes it all possible. Did you know that right now you are Holy and blameless before Him?....Did you know that?.....It is true...

The word "Holy" means "totally set apart from sin."

The word "blameless" ~~is~~ is the same word used in I Peter 1:18-19 when it says "that Christ was a lamb without blemish and without spot."

It is the world "without blemish."

Do you know how God looks at the believer? Not one blemish in your life..

WHY?....Because we prove to be such great people.....Are you kidding!.....

It is Because we have received Jesus and we stand in Jesus whose blood has washed away our sins. Not one stain. Not one blemish. I am holy and without blemish.

And notice it says "before Him." That little word "before" blessed my life. It is a compound ^{word} meaning "to see down into." And it refers to a penetrating gaze. As God looks ~~down~~ down and through me, he sees me right now as Holy and blameless. No matter what anyone else sees.

And why? Because he is looking through Jesus. Do you want to know how much a believer is forgiven and cleansed? It is total and complete. ~~So this God and his gaze,~~ And the Bible says, that all things are naked and open unto him through whom we have to deal. ^{God} When ~~he~~ looks into my life, He sees a life absolutely perfect. He guarantees it because of what Jesus did at the cross. I like that. *That ought to improve your self-worth*

(2) Second purpose as to why God chose us. To demonstrate his tremendous love

The last phrase of Vs 4 goes with the first part of Vs 5. "In love ~~he~~ predestined us."

When you ask, "Why did God chose me?" Answer: "God so loved the world." God's love. "God commends his love towards us, says Romans 5:8, that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."

And the greatness of God's love is seen in the fact that he chose me before I was born, before I even had a chance to prove my worthiness,.... Friends, God loves you. Oh, how I hope you never get over that. God loved us so much that he settle ^{Planned} ~~it~~ before the worlds were ever created.

He knows your weakness, he knows you sins, and he knows that if you were left to yourself it would be impossible for you to be saved. He settles it by choosing you before the foundation of the world. And developing a plan by which this will be settled through his son, Jesus Christ.. Tremdnous...

(3) And third, his third purpose is to receive praise and glory. WHY DID GOD CHOSE YOU AND ME? WHY DIDN'T HE LEAVE IT UP TO US? Because he wants to receive all the glory/..

Vs 6 says "to the praise of the glory of His grace." Grace gives to us what we dont' deserve.

Now, WHAT SHOULD BE OUR RESPONSE?

If you are not a believer, of course we encourage you to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

You say, "Well, how do I know if I am one of the chosen or not?... Well, you could sure settle that right now if you want to?.....Just confess your sins and ask Jesus for his forgiveness and receive him into your heart. I guarantee you that if you would do that in all sincerity, you will know... You, my friend, are sitting here hearing about Christ, and you have an opportunity to believe in Him...WILL YOU?????

In other words, God has a plan. And God in his gracious way works through the means of that plan, which is Jesus Christ, in order to accomplish the result of that plan. Namely, you deciding to trust Him as Lord and Saviour....

And God in love and grace has even made it possible for you to hear that plan. And he is asking you to believe on his son, Jesus Christ. Because ^{Jesus} ^{God} ^{FOR SALVATION} is His plan. You can become only what God wants you to be, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And if you are a believer, what is your responses to all of this?
Man, you ought to praise and thank God every day of your life. Thank you Lord for saving me. Thank you for making me perfect in your sight through Christ. And to praise and glorify his wonderful name...every day of your life

Let us close in prayer

you ought to live for Him - Trust - Surrender - you ought to be sold out for J.C. - Demand God's will to a total yield.

I Peter

Let's close in prayer

you should be proclaiming the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light