

HE HAS CHOSEN US IN HIM **Ephesians 1:3, 4**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessing 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.

The first blessing in the extensive list of blessings found in Ephesians 1:3 – 2:6, is that God has chosen us, in Christ. God’s attribute and work of choosing is His sovereign right as Creator and Ruler of all things. In whom all things work according to His will. God’s choosing is evident throughout all of His creation; including persons, places and things. Whether it is Jerusalem, as the chosen Holy City; the Israelites as His chosen special people or a certain colt to ride on as “Hosannas” were proclaimed, God chooses.

In its simplest definition, “chosen” means to pick or to select. In the context of our Ephesians scripture, the word also indicates the taking of one and the leaving of another. Also, the word means to be selected out from and to be brought to one’s self in loving favor. The Spirit of God in Ephesians 1:3, 4, lifts the veil and reveals to us a portion of the work of God before the foundation of the world.

According to our referenced scripture, there are two aspects to the choosing of God:

- **The first is in relationship to God’s choice of Christ as the means of our eternal salvation and as the Servant of the Lord.**
- **Secondly, we see God’s choice of certain persons from the human race to be His children and to be gifts to His Son, Jesus Christ.**

GOD CHOSE CHRIST

We know that Jesus Christ is the second Person of the Godhead; the eternal Son of God. God, the Father, according to His will and by His pleasure chose Jesus to be the Divine means of salvation. Jesus Christ is God’s elect and chosen.

Isaiah 42:1. “Behold, My servant, whom I uphold; mine **elect**, in whom My soul delighteth; I have put My Spirit upon Him; He shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.”

Matthew 12:17, 18. “That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah, the prophet, saying: Behold, My Servant, whom I have **chosen**; My beloved in whom My soul is well pleased; I will put My Spirit upon Him, and He shall show judgment (justice) to the Gentiles.”

1 Peter 2:6. "Wherefore also, it is contained in the scripture, Behold I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, **elect**, precious; and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded.

WHY JESUS CHRIST MUST BE CHOSEN FIRST

Colossians 1:17 – 19. And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And, He is the head of the Body, the church; who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **that in all things He might have the preeminence.** For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell.

Preeminence means to stand out, have paramount rank, dignity and importance; outstanding.

GOD CHOSE US IN CHRIST

This blessing of being chosen by God happens in the same manner as all other spiritual blessings. It is through our spiritual union and relationship with Jesus Christ that the spiritual blessings flow. Most of us have probably heard it said, "God chose us," and that, of course, is true. However, when you look closely at the words Of Ephesians 1:3 and 4, it does not just say, "God chose us - period." It says, "God hath chosen us in Him." God has both blessed us and has chosen us in Christ.

JESUS CHRIST, LAST ADAM

How is it that we were chosen in Christ?

1 Corinthians 15:45 - 47. And so, it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. However, that which is spiritual was not first, but that which is natural, and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second Man is the Lord from Heaven.

This verse tells us about two men; two natures. The first man, Adam (the Adam of Genesis) is of the earth. The last Adam (Jesus Christ) is the Lord from heaven.

The first Adam is a type or foreshadowing of the Last Adam. When God created Adam, He created Eve in Adam. Although it is not immediately obvious to the eye, it is true, nonetheless. When God created Adam, within him was the rib from which Eve was to come from.

Genesis 2:21 – 24. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

As it was with first Adam, so it is with Last Adam. Jesus Christ has been given, by God a people; His bride, the church. Just as first Adam received Eve as a bride. So Christ has received the Church as His bride.

GOD'S CHOICE IS MADE

The entire human race, regardless of social class, from Adam onward is born dead in trespasses and sins. This spiritual death (separation from God) is a result of sin and disobedience towards God's – His will and His word.

Romans 3:10. As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one.

Romans 3:23. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

God, who is righteous in all of his ways could have ordained that all of humanity would have been forever condemned to an eternal hell. But God chose out, for Himself and His Son, a people from among all of humanity who would be the objects of His grace, mercy favor and love.

Illustration – Throughout life, from day-to-day, we all make choices. One choice that I believe we can all relate to is the simple and common task of going to the grocery store. In the grocery store, we make many choices, we pick and we select according to our will.

For example, we go to the produce section or the fruits and vegetables section of the market and we select and purchase a tomato. We find in the tomato-bin many tomatoes. But, we do not buy them all. We select the one that we want according to our will, and we purchase that tomato. And no one says that we were unfair to pick out that one tomato. And no one can declare us guilty of leaving the others behind. And, we, ourselves do not feel any guilt or burden for not buying them all.

So, it is spiritually. God makes choice according to His divine will, pleasure and purpose.

But my illustration falls short because we choose based on good qualities and characteristics. But, with God there was nothing He saw in any of us (by nature) that lifted us above others and entitle us to His gifts.

God choice is:

1. By His sovereign right as creator of all. Romans 9:18 – 24
2. According to His will and purpose. Ephesians 1:5, 9
3. By grace. Ephesians 2:5 - 8

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