

Ephesians: Blessings in Christ, Part 1
Sermon by Pastor Oleg

OUR ETERNAL RICHES IN CHRIST (Chapter 1-3)

Blessings involving God the Father (1:4-6)

Blessings involving God the Son (1:7-12)

Blessings involving God the Holy Spirit (1:13-14)

Spiritual Blessings Involving the Father:

I. CHOSEN BY GOD (1:4)

A. Chosen -

1. Election=Ekleptomai -

B. The Time of this choice (v.4)

1. "...before the foundation of the world", 1 Peter 1:20

C. The Objects of this choice

1. One view:

- a. Individual (only certain select ones have been chosen)
- b. Dependent solely on God's gracious and mysterious will
- c. Unconditional and final

2. Another view:

- a. Individual (certain select ones have been chosen)
- b. Based upon foreknowledge of those who would respond to the gospel and persevere in the faith
- c. Unconditional and final, in the sense that God already knows who will persevere to the end

3. "...chose us in Him (i.e. Christ, v.4a)

- a. Is it general or corporate?
- b. Is it the Body of Christ, the church as a whole, which God chose for His divine and gracious purposes He planned to carry out in Christ?
- c. 2 Peter 1:10
 1. Israel as a nation - chosen by God to receive blessings
 2. Individually, Israelites had to "make their calling and election sure"

D. The Purpose of this choice

1. "that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love"
 - a. "Holy" -
 - b. "Without blame" -
 - c. "In love" - Eph 5:1-2, 1 Pe 2:9

II. PREDESTINED BY GOD (1:5-6a)

A. Predestined = Proorizo -

1. Who was it that God "predetermined" beforehand?

B. The Subjects of God's predestination -

1. "Us" (v. 4a)
2. What was it that God "predetermined"?

C. The Purpose of God's predestination

1. "Adoption as sons" (v.5a)
2. Why did God "predetermine" this?

D. The Basis of God's predestination

1. "According to the good pleasure of his will" (v.5b)
 - a. God was pleased and wanted to do that
 - b. By His divine will he has made it possible in Christ

III. ACCEPTED BY GOD (1:6)

A. Accepted = Charito -

1. Those in Christ are 'highly favored' in God's sight, Lk 1:28

B. The Basis upon which we are accepted

2. "In the Beloved"
3. All these blessings, including acceptance, are "IN" and "BY" Christ:
 1. God chose us "in Him (Christ)", v. 4
 2. God predestined us to adoption as sons "by Jesus Christ", v.5
 3. God has made us accepted "in the Beloved (Christ), v.6
4. It is by our being "in" Christ that we privileged to be "highly favored" by God and showered by these wonderful blessings

What should our reaction be to all of this?

- To praise the Triune God for His glorious grace
- You are family member to the God of the Universe
- You are in the Beloved, you belong to the living Christ
- You can be fully, 100% assured today and for eternity safe
- Live with confidence that He will always love you and keep you in His grace