

*A View From  
Heavenly Places*

**Part 1**

**Ephesians 1:1-14**

# Spiritual Blessings

**Ephesians 1:3**, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ”*

**Ephesians 1:18**, *“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints”*

# Chosen by God

**Ephesians 1:4, “he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love”**

- **Chosen**

- Picked, Selected, Elected

- **Time of Choice**

- Before the foundation of the world

- As Jesus was foreordained

- **1 Peter 1:20, “who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you”**

# Chosen by God, cont.

Ephesians 1:4, *“he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love”*

## •Objects of Choice

– Calvinists contend individuals pre-selected

- Men dependent totally on God’s grace

– Paul simply said, *“hath chosen US in him”*

- The church of Christ, The body of Christ

- 2 Peter 1:10, *“brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall”*

- As Israel was a chosen, but many failed God

# Chosen by God, cont.

**Ephesians 1:4, “*he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love”*”**

## • Purpose of Choice

- To be “holy”---set apart for a special purpose
- To be “without blame”---free from contamination
- To be “before him in love”---followers of God

- **Ephesians 5:1-2, “*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.*”**

# Predestined by God

**Ephesians 1:5-6, “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”**

## •Predestined

- “Predetermined”, “Determined before hand”
- Determined before creation

## •Who was predetermined?

- Paul simply said “US”---church at Ephesus
- The body of Christ
- Those obedient, **Mk.16:16; John 4:5; Gal.3:27**

# Predestined by God

Ephesians 1:5-6, *“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”*

## • Why were we predetermined?

– *“adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself”*

• Matthew 16:18-19, *“my church/the kingdom”*

• Ephesians 4:4, *“one body”*

– *“To the good pleasure of his will”*

• Because it pleased Him

# Predestined by God, cont.

**Ephesians 1:5-6, “*Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*”**

- Why were “we” (the church) predetermined?
  - **“*To the praise of the glory of his grace*”**
    - God entitled to praise, honor, & glory
    - Adopted us and gave us our inheritance
  - **“*He hath made us accepted in the beloved.*”**
    - By God’s grace we have been accepted
    - He died while we were yet sinners. **Rom. 5:8**

# Redeemed & Forgave by God

**Ephesians 1:7-8, “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence”**

**We have...**

- **“redemption through his blood”**
  - “Emancipated”, “Freed”, “Pardoned”, “Paid in full”
  - **“1 Peter 1:18-19, “Redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot...”**
- **“forgiveness of sins”**
  - “forgotten”, “remembered no more”, **Hebrews 8:12**
  - “blotted out”, **Acts 3:19**

# Redeemed & Forgave by God, cont.

**Ephesians 1:7-8**, *“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence”*

• *“according to the riches of his grace”*

– **Ephesians 2:8**, *“by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God”*

– **Hebrews 2:9**, *“Jesus...crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”*

• *“abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence”*

– **1 Corinthians 1:7**, Paul said, *“we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory”*

# God's Mystery Revealed

**Ephesians 1:9-10**, *“Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself. That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him”*

• *“...the dispensation of the fullness of time...”*

- God's synchronized a to produce results
- Events and actions set in heavenly motion



• *“...gather together in one all things in Christ...”*

- To Gather, Add up, Total, Collect

# The Mystery Revealed

**Ephesians 1:11-14, “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”**

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