

“Surprise! You’ve Been Chosen & Look at You Now!”

Ephesians 1:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

A. Our lesson text is lifted from the **49th** Book of the Bible . . . the **10th** Book of the New Testament . . . the **5th** of **21** Book of the Epistles . . . and Paul’s **9th** of **13** authored books. Ten verses and 217 words constitute our text.

➡ **READ: Ephesians 1:1-10**

B. School Days . . . Playground days . . . “Let’s choose up.” Not all would get chosen . . . Others were chosen reluctantly or last. Where you were chosen helped determine how you would feel about being involved in the game or activity. To you it said something about your self-worth and abilities.

1. I cannot go back and change your playground days . . . But . . .
2. I can help you change your real . . . Present life days and future.
3. God has chosen you to be a Christian in Christ.
4. How high up on the list were you chosen? Before the foundations of the world were ever laid. That’s at least 6,000 years ago.

C. The Book of Ephesians

1. Ephesians 1-3: Schoolroom & blackboard application . . . Shows us how.
2. Ephesians 4-6: Application of what is shown in chapters 1-3.

D. Clarification of terms in our text.

1. Verse **1**:

- Saints are individual Christians in Ephesus.

2. Verse **3**:

- Spiritual blessings are the opposite of material blessings and vastly superior to material blessings.
- All spiritual blessings originate in Christ.
- Through verse 14, Paul numerates some of these spiritual blessings:

- Holy (4)	- Redemption (7)
- Blameless (4)	- Forgiveness of sins (7)
- Love (4)	- Gathered us together in Christ (10)
- Adoption (3)	- Obtained an inheritance (11)
- Grace (6)	- Sealed by the Holy Spirit (13)
- Acceptance (6)	

3. Verse **4**:

- The choosing is a group (Christians), not individuals as Calvinists and others have so taught.
- The group is made up of the body of Christ . . . The Church.

5. Verse 5

- Predestined has to do with God choosing a way . . . a plan . . . and not specific individuals.
- Adoption means to take into one’s family legally and rear as one’s own child. Spiritually speaking, it means to place as a son . . . And that is what God has done with every obedient child of God.
- God chose a process to bring those outside His family to inside His family.

6. Verse 6:

- The “Beloved” is Jesus Christ . . . And we have been made “accepted in the Beloved.”
- We who enter the way of the chosen are to live by the example of the Beloved.

7. Verse 9:

- “The mystery of His will.” Explain
- **The Bible is an intelligent book from an intelligent God to an intelligent people, given to be read, understood and obeyed!**
- In this passage, a mystery is not something mysterious and difficult to understand . . . **But rather, it is truth that has been locked up in God’s plan for ages until He was ready to reveal it. When the time came, He unlocked the truth and opened it up to man.**
- **BIBLICAL EXAMPLE:** In Genesis 41:25-26, the seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine were mysteries until God chose to make them known through Joseph.
- **1 Peter 1:10-12** – “Of this salvation **the prophets have inquired and searched carefully**, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now **have been reported to you** through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven -- things **which angels desire to look into.**”

E. How blessed we are that our holy God would think so highly of us so as to do all that He has, and continues, to do for us daily. How undeserving we are . . . But oh how appreciative and faithful we ought to be!

THE PROCEDURE: Verse 4 – “Just as He **chose** us . . .”

A. We do not get to be a part of the body simply because:

1. We are good enough . . . We aren’t.
2. We deserve enough . . . We don’t.

3. We work enough . . . We can't.
 4. We show up every time the doors are opened . . . That's not enough.
- B. We get to enter the body of Christ simply because God in eternity past wanted you to be a part of this body. God prepared a way for you before he prepared you for the way.
1. What does this say about your sense of self-worth?
 2. You have been honored by the King of the Universe.
 3. You have been invited to enter and be a viable part of the family of God.
 4. You have been invited to live in Heaven.
 5. **Isaiah 1:18** – “Come now, and let us reason together,’ Says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.” **To me, that sounds like God wants you.**
 6. **Matthew 11:28-30** – “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” **To me, that sounds like God wants you.**
 7. **2 Corinthians 6:17** – “Therefore ‘Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.’” **To me, that sounds like God wants you.**
- C. God did the choosing . . . and you are chosen in Christ!

THE OBJECT: **Verse 4** – “Just as He chose **us** . . .”

- A. **John 14:6** – “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”
1. That way is Christ.
 2. The church Christ established is called **THE WAY** in the Book of Acts.
 3. The Jewish Congregation in Jerusalem is still called the Way.
 4. In His sovereign will, God predestinated those who are in Christ Jesus to eternal life. Why? **That is the Way He chose.**
 - a. That decision is unalterable.
 - b. That decision stands as secure as God Himself.
 - c. No one else in modern times can be saved except those who are the Lord Jesus Christ . . . God's Way to the Father.
- B. Who can be in Jesus? Who can be a part of this one body that is headed for Glory?
1. Anybody!
 2. “Whosoever will may come.”
 3. Anyone may become the object of God's choosing **IF** they so desire.

- C. Those **IN CHRIST** will stand before God without blemish . . . Christ’s blood has removed it.
- D. Those **OUTSIDE CHRIST** will stand before God with their blemishes. Because without applying the blood of Christ to their lives, they have no other way to have their sins/blemishes removed.

THE OCCASION: Verse 4 – “Just as He chose us in Him **before the foundation of the world . . .**”

- A. When did God make the decision that all those who are in Christ will receive eternal life and spiritual blessings?
1. When the Bible was written? . . . No, Long before that!
 2. When the church was established? No . . . Long before that.
 3. When Christ died, was buried, then resurrected? No . . . Long before that.
 4. When Christ was born in Bethlehem of Judea? No . . . Long before that.
 5. When the Old Testament closed? No . . . Long before that.
 4. When Moses received the Law at Mount Sinai? No . . . Long before that.
 5. When Abraham was called to leave Ur of the Chaldees? No . . . Long before that.
 6. When the flood waters abated, the earth dried, and Noah left the ark? No . . . Long before that.
 7. When the Tower of Babel was forsaken and the people were forced to scatter over the earth? No . . . Long before that.
 8. When Even, then Adam, sinned in the Garden of Eden? No . . . Long before that.
 9. When Genesis 1:1 was taking place? No . . . Long before that.
- B. Before God laid that first proverbial brick of the whole universe, He had established His eternal plan in His mind, and the rebellion in the Garden of Eden would not sway Him from what He had purposed to do “before the foundation of the world.”
1. **Revelation 13:8** – “. . . The Lamb **slain from the foundation of the world.**”
 2. **2 Thessalonians 2:13** – “But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because **God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.**”
 3. **2 Timothy 1:9** – “Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which **was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.**”

C. Can you believe that God loves you that much? Even before you were born, when the universe was a dream of dim conception, God knew your sin and break His heart . . . But He loved you and chose you anyway.

THE DESIGN: Verse 4 – “Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world **that we should be holy and blameless before Him . . .**”

A. If there is anything that man wasn’t, it was holy and blameless.

1. Romans 3:23 – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

2. God designed a solution and Paul wrote about it. Ephesians 5:25-27 – “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

B. The church is not an afterthought in the mind of God . . . It is part of His eternal plan.

THE MOTIVE: Verses 4-5 – “. . . In **love**, having predestined us . . .”

A. What moved God to go to all this trouble?

1. Our goodness?

2. Our desirability?

3. Our wonderful personalities?

B. No! . . . He did it simply because He loves us. John 3:16-17 – “For God so loved the world . . . “

C. Because of the love of God, our eternal destiny is secured.

D. If you are in Jesus Christ . . . God’s plan of redemption is foolproof.

THE RESULT: Verses 4-5 – “. . . In love, having predestined us to adoption as **sons** through Jesus Christ . . .”

A. Not slaves . . . Not servants . . . Not friends . . . Not neighbors . . . Not associates . . . **But sons!**

B. Like the prodigal son in Luke 15, back home in full fellowship with the Father in the family.

C. There are no second-class citizens . . . no associate members . . . only sons and daughters adopted into the family of God with all its attendant blessings.

D. Adoption means to take into one’s family legally and rear as one’s own child.

1. Before adoption one is outside the family . . . After adoption one is inside the family.
2. Obedience to the gospel is the spiritual process that brings one from outside of Christ to inside Christ . . . into the family of God – The Church.
3. Adopted children are special children in that they are chosen by the adoptive parents. We are special . . . We have been chosen by the God of the universe to be His own children.

THE GOAL: **Verses 4-5-6** – “Having predestined us to **adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself**, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He made us accepted in the Beloved.**”

- A. We are saved to praise God’s glory . . . to worship the Creator . . . To glorify Him for all that He is and for all that He is doing for us.
- B. To restore us to holiness and blamelessness so that we can once again know His fellowship, which we do not deserve, brings joy to the heart of God.
 1. It gives Him pleasure.
 2. That is why it is so tragic when we take our call to holiness lightly.
- C. **Galatians 3:27** – “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
 1. The Bible teaches that one puts on Christ by entering Christ
 2. The blood of the perfect “Lamb of God” cleanses us. John 1:29

REDEMPTION

A. **Redemption has to do with the concept of buying back.**

1. **1 Corinthians 6:20** – “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”
2. **Redemption in the New Testament means an act of God whereby He pays the ransom price to buy back human souls and that have come under sin’s control.** It is the price God pays to get back that which is rightfully His own.
3. Sin is man’s captor . . . God pays the price to redeem us from our sins.

B. **EPHESIANS 1:6-10 UNFOLDS FIVE ELEMENTS IN THE PROCESS OF REDEMPTION.**

1. THE REDEEMER

- a. Verses 6-7 tells us we have redemption in Jesus Christ (our Redeemer)
- b. **Colossians 1:13-14** – “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

- c. When Jesus redeems you, He takes care of your sin problem.

2. THE REDEEMED

- a. Those for whom the price has been paid and their release has been Given . . . Paid in full . . . Wiped out as if it had never ever happened at all.
- b. The redeemed are heaven-bound!
- c. The standing mystery of the ages has been revealed.
 - 1. When the God-selected appointed time came, God unlocked the truth and opened it up to man.
 - 2. God's own timetable . . . Don't rush it!
 - 3. **Galatians 4:4** – “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.”
 - 4. The fullness was determined by God Himself.

3. THE RATE

- a. Redemption is never cheap. The rate of exchange must always be equal to the value of the item redeemed.
- b. **Ephesians 1:7** – “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

4. THE RESULT

- a. The immediate result of human redemption is complete forgives of our sins.
- b. As cleansed as you will ever be.
- c. Did you know that the Greek word we translate “forgive” literally means “to send away.”
- d. **Hebrew 8:10-12** – “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
 - 11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.
 - 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins **and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.**”
- e. **Ephesians 2:12-13** – “That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
 - 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

5. THE REASON

- a. God wanted to bring His creation back into harmony with Himself. That relationship was broken way back in the Garden of Eden.
- b. Through Calvary Jesus tore down the barriers between God and man so that once again the Creator and His creation might enjoy a beautiful, harmonious relationship.

CONCLUSION:

- A. An old cowboy used to describe his life this way. **“I’m not what I ought to be; I’m not what I am going to be; but thank God, I’m not what I used to be!”**
- B. By God’s grace your sin problem has been conquered, and you are free to enjoy fullness of life and God’s fellowship right now.
- C. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**