

I. Chosen - Ephesians 1:3-6

1. We have been blessed by God (**verse 3**)
 - A. In the heavenly realms
 - B. With spiritual blessings in Christ
 - chosen in union with Christ
 - Rea -the covenant is with Christ, so that all who are “in Him” are “chosen”
 - Rea -the phrase “in Him” is used repeatedly in chapter one - God chose to honor all those who are in Him
 - Rea -He does not chose some to save and some to not be saved, He chose all who are “in Him” - that would mean has chosen some to be destined for hell - our God is a “whosoever” God. He is not willing that any should perish. That is His will.
 - C. Chosen before the foundation of the world (**verses 4-6**)
 - Rea -not just chosen but once again chosen “in Him”
 - Rea -our writer pushes the idea of we being chosen, the idea is that we are chosen “in Him” that is what Paul repeats often
 - D. Predestined for adoption
 - Rea -how? - through Christ
 - E. Chosen for something - to be holy and blameless - our lives are transformed to match the life of Jesus
 - chosen for adoption
 - Rea -Romans 8:29 says chosen to be conformed to the image of His son - that’s where God is going with our salvation - that we might look like Jesus
 - 2. We are baptized into Christ - Romans 6 - and God chooses all who are in Christ

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. We live in a time with a very skewed view of “grace” - we often take it to mean - we don’t do anything, He just chooses whom He will to be saved. Does that mean we are then unconsciously saved? Does that mean we have no “choice” in the matter? Human choice is a marvelous gift that God has given to mankind. He never violates that choice.
2. Grace means that God takes the initiative - He loved us before we loved Him
 - it does not mean that we have no free will in the matter
 - Jesus died for us before we were right with God
 - in fact He died for us to bring us to God
3. Does this mean that we too, should love others before they love God or themselves? - yes it does! By pouring our grace on others, we too participate in bringing them to Christ.
4. Holiness is not preached much and expected even less - we have a gospel that allows us to live as we please, and still make it to heaven - after all we’ve been “chosen”

II. Redeemed - Ephesians 1:7-12

1. We have redemption (**verses 7-8**)

- Rea A. He has payed our way - that's what redemption means
 -so "according to the riches" makes perfect sense - He has bought us
 because He has the cash to do so
 -what was the price? - His blood
- Rea B. And the forgiveness of sins
 -so this forgiveness is necessary - because of our sins. If we don't teach
 and preach "sins" then we have nothing to be redeemed from.
- Rea -note that "grace" in verse 7 means that He gave blood freely, not because
 He had to
- Rea C. The idea of wisdom and understanding goes nicely with verse 9 - not so much
 with verse 7
2. **Verses 9-10** begin to speak about the broad purpose of God - to bring unity to all
 things through Christ
- Rea A. All things in heaven and in earth
- Rea B. All things - such as all nations
- Rea C. Be brought to unity under Christ - under His lordship and authority
 -"mystery" in verse 9 speaks to the idea that it is mysterious how He has
 worked all this out - a mystery that is now revealed
3. We now receive an inheritance (**verses 11-12**)
- Rea A. As adopted sons we receive an inheritance
 -see KJV of verse 11
- Rea B. We receive
 -forgiveness (1:7)
 -insight (1:9)
 -hope (1:12)
- Rea C. This is all done in accordance with God's will not our effort or work - His plan
 -once again all this is done "in him" - at verse 11
- Rea -at 1:7 - it is "in Him" that we receive redemption
 -verse 12 shows that the plan was there - then verse 13 shows how it all
 worked out - it applied to you when you heard the message and believed
4. The first to put their hope in Christ were these folk - Jews
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Verse 11 in KJV includes the phrase "obtained an inheritance" - that makes our lesson
 make a bit more sense - left out of the NIV
 -it is however included in verse 14
2. How did God do all this? - "in Him" - through Jesus
 -this was God's eternal plan to bless us by Jesus
 -He blesses the world by choosing the Jews
 -does this mean (also) that we are to BE a blessing?
3. There is unity in all of us being in one place - "in Him"

III. Sealed - Ephesians 1:13-14

1. Included "in Christ" (**verse 13**)
 -you were marked "in Him"
- Rea 2. How did this happen - how were we included?
 A. We heard the message

- B. We believed
- C. We are saved by grace - God reached out (Eph. 2:8-9)
 - by faith - we received the message (Eph. 2:8-9)
- 3. Marked in Him with a seal - the promised Holy Spirit
 - once we receive Him we are “sealed” - a method of ownership in the ancient world
 - a wax seal containing the imprint of the master’s ring - identifying this person as belonging to the master
- Rea -in other words God owns you and has claimed you by His imprint - the Holy Spirit
- 4. That Spirit is a guarantee of our inheritance (**verse 14**)
 - a down payment, or an earnest, or deposit
- Rea -earnest money is given to make sure the person is in “earnest” - to guarantee the purchase
- full payment will come at a later date
- 5. The Spirit as mark and deposit is used also by Paul at 1 Corinthians 1:21-22
 - the Holy Spirit is a first fruits of what God is doing
- Rea 6. Note the verse says we are God’s possession - He has bought us - we belong to Him
 - therefore, for us to be “lost” again would mean that God has somehow lost possession
- 7. All this brings praise and glory to God - that He is such a gracious God
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 - 1. Your present condition - “sealed”
 - 2. To be such a seal the Holy Spirit must be given at salvation - not a second blessing - else we would have no seal
 - 3. Do you have/ experience an assurance of your own salvation? - do you really, really, really know you are saved? - the Holy Spirit communicates such
 - 4. All this is accomplished through the blood of Jesus
 - 5. As many as “received” Him to them gave He the right to be the Sons of God

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