

EPHESIANS

The Chosen Ones

Ephesians 1:3-6



Before We Begin

- I must ask again:

Are You In Christ?



If the Answer is “No” EPHESIANS

The next 12
verses will mean
very little to you.

John Calvin

“The lofty terms in which he [Paul] extols the grace of God toward the Ephesians, are intended to rouse their hearts to gratitude, to set them all on flame, to fill them even to overflowing with this disposition.”





Did You Know?

In the Greek text, verses 3-14 are *ONE* sentence!

Ephesians 1:3

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“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ”

Outline

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- I. The Believer's POSITION in Christ.

God is to be Blessed

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- Because He has bestowed on His people “every spiritual blessing” “in Christ.”
- These are not material blessings.
- Turn over to Deuteronomy 28.

Where are *these* Blessings? EPHESIANS

“in the heavenly places”

This is significant for the
believer on multiple levels.

“heavenly places”

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1. It is where Christ is.

- 1:20 – “He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places”

2. We have been raised with Christ.

- 2:6 – “and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”

Ephesians 1:4

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“just as He chose *us* in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.”

Outline

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II. The ELECTION of the Father.

“chosen”

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ἐκλέγομαι (*eklegomai*)

This is where we get our English term,
election.

The *elect* is ἐκλεκτός (*eklektos*)

And this is where so many Christians get
nervous...

A.W. Pink

“There is not a single book in the Word of God where election is not either expressly stated, strikingly illustrated, or clearly implied.”



John 15:16

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“You did not **choose** Me but I **chose** you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.”

John 15:19

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“If you were of the world,
the world would love its own;
but because you are not of
the world, but I **chose** you
out of the world, because of
this the world hates you.”

“Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He **chose**, He shortened the days.”

Acts 13:48

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“When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; *and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.*”

Outline

EPHESIANS

II. The ELECTION of the Father.

A. When?

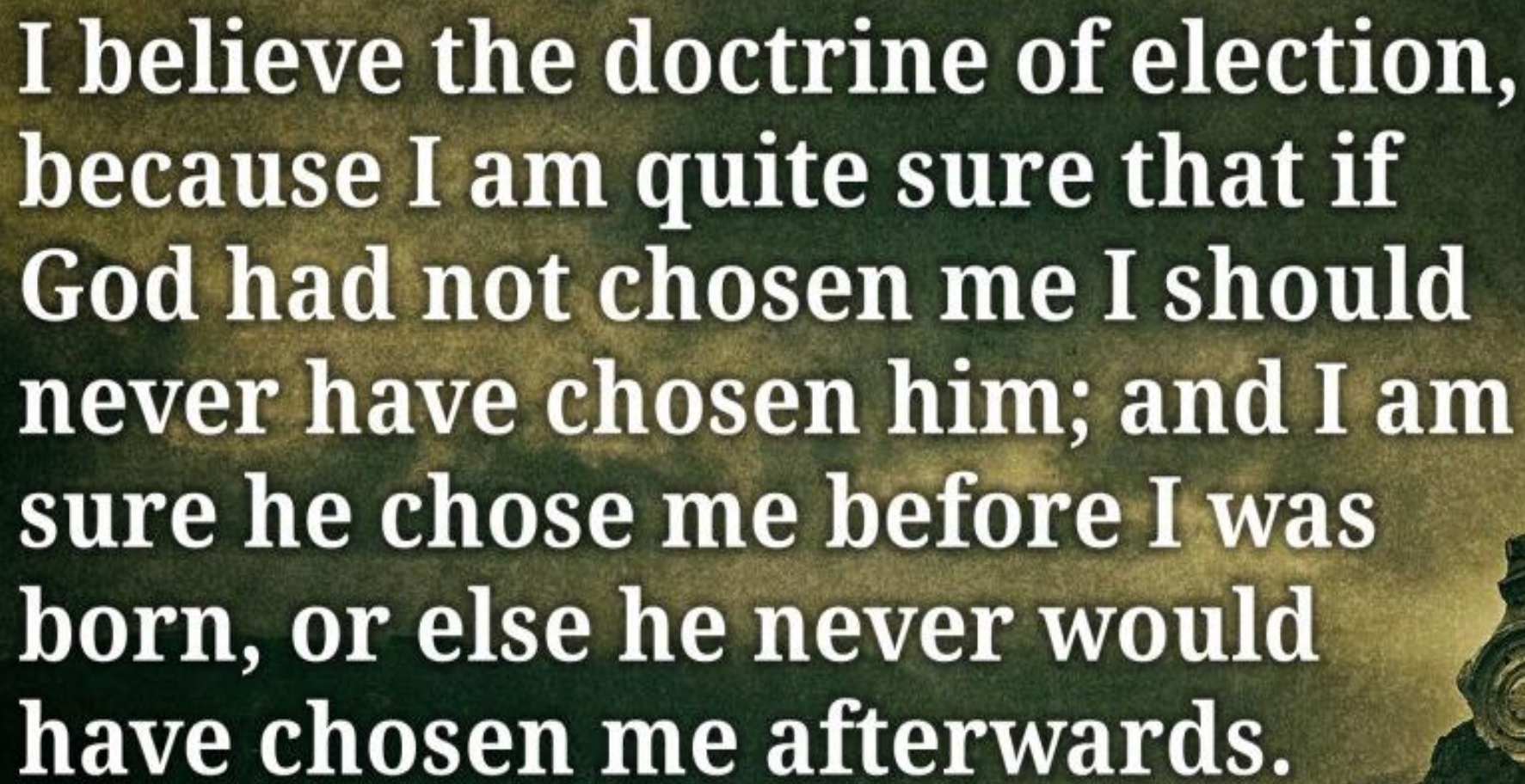
BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF
THE WORLD

B. By What Means?

C. For What Reason?

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Isn't This Just
Fatalism?

The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. On the right side, a large, weathered classical column is visible, partially cut off by the edge of the frame. The landscape beyond the column shows rolling hills and some distant structures under a moody, overcast sky. The overall color palette is dark, with shades of green, brown, and grey.

**I believe the doctrine of election,
because I am quite sure that if
God had not chosen me I should
never have chosen him; and I am
sure he chose me before I was
born, or else he never would
have chosen me afterwards.**

CHARLES SPURGEON

Doesn't This
Negatively
Impact Our
Evangelism?



If God would have painted a yellow stripe on the backs of the elect, I would go around lifting shirts. But since he didn't, I must preach "whosoever will"; and when "whosoever" believes, I know he is one of the elect.

C. H. Spurgeon

We Were Chosen

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“In Him”

- Now look at Colossians 1:16-17 –

“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

And So:

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It was “in Him” that all things were created,
and therefore, we are assured that even
earlier still, it was “in Him” that the people
of God were chosen.

**Christ is the Foundation, the Origin, the
Executor.**

Boice says, “He is the Author and
Accomplisher of our Salvation!”

Does That Impact Us? EPHESIANS

- 1 Peter 1:15-16 –

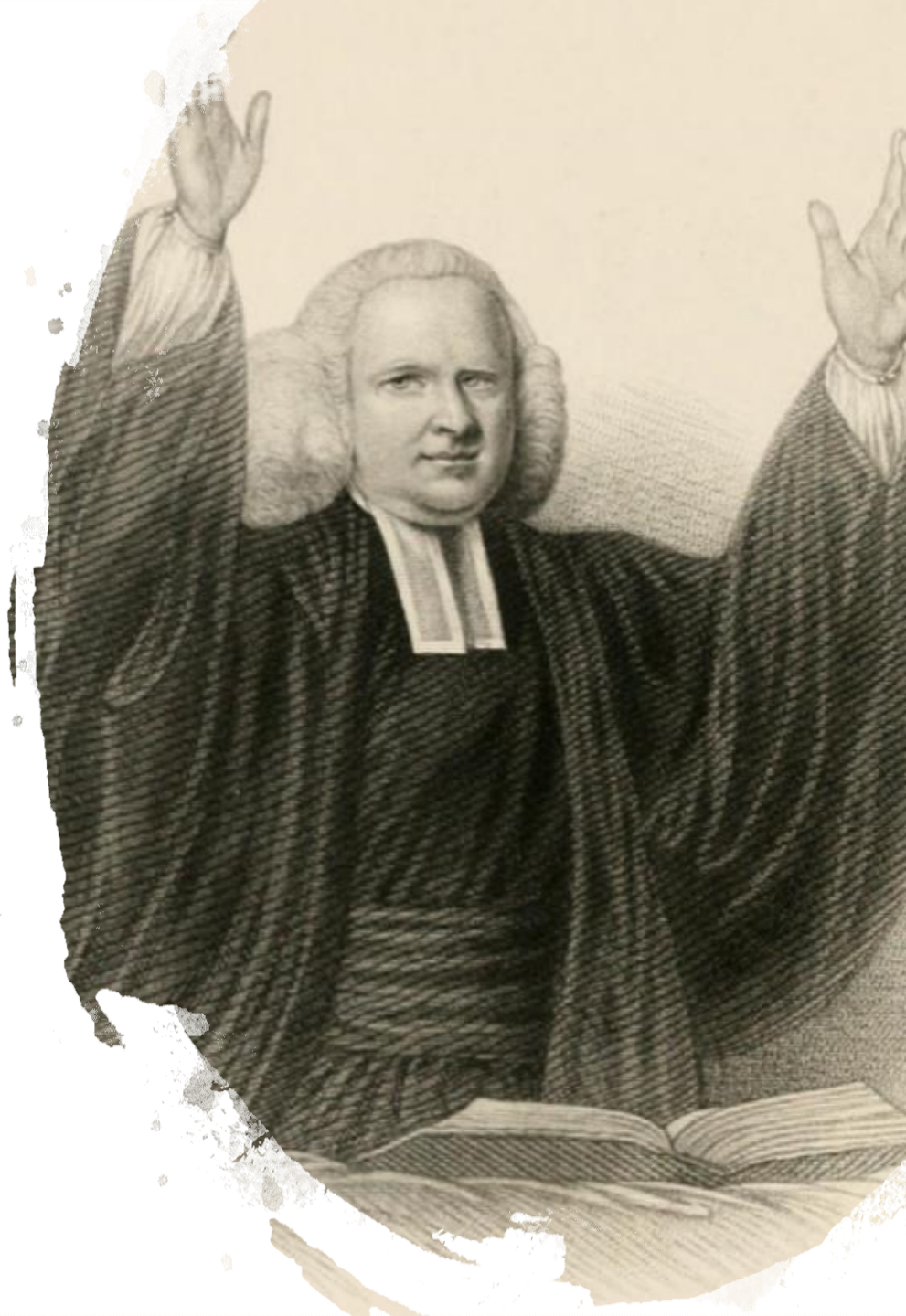
“but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”

- In 1 Peter 1:1-2, the Apostle said we were:

“chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood”

George Whitefield

“Oh, the excellency of the doctrine of election and of the saint’s final perseverance! I am persuaded, till a man comes to believe and feel these important truths, he cannot come to himself, but when convinced of these, and assured of their application to his own heart, he then walks by faith indeed! . . . Love, not fear, constrains him to obedience.”



United with Christ

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The Christian Life is The
Resurrection Life

We Don't Await Eternity;
We are in Eternity

From Eternal Election to Eternal
Glory

Speaking of Love...

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- Look at your v. 4 in your Bible.

- **NASB (also ESV):**

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love

- **KJV:**

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:

Ephesians 1:5

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(In love) “He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will”

Outline

EPHESIANS

II. The ELECTION of the Father.

A. When?

BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF
THE WORLD

B. By What Means?

IN LOVE HE PREDESTINED US

C. For What Reason? _____

“predestined”

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προορίζω (*proorizō*)

- Romans 8:29 –

“For those whom He foreknew, He also **predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren”

And the result of being predestined is...

“adoption”

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υἱοθεσία (*huiiothesia*)

- Romans 8:15 –

“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of **adoption** as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’”

Jewish Adoption?

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- This is basically a foreign concept in Hebrew society.
- What we see in the OT is the process of levirate marriage in the event of a husband/father's untimely death.
- The children and (ideally) the son produced were to perpetuate the name of the deceased not the man fulfilling his lawful duty.

Possible OT Connections

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- Genesis 15:2-3 – Abraham & Eliezer
- Genesis 29:14 – Laban & Jacob

But neither of these situations give us any indication of the legality of adoption and the cultural practice thereof.

So, on what is Paul basing his illustration?

Hosea 11:1

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“When Israel was a youth I loved him,
And out of Egypt I called My son.”

G.A. Smith wrote:

“God’s eyes, passing the princes of the world, fell upon this slave boy, and He loved him and gave him a career.”

And Furthermore:

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If “every spiritual blessing” flows down to us from the Father via Christ, and as Colossians 1:13 says, Christ is “His beloved Son” (literally, “the Son of His love”), then God must be the Father of love, the loving Father.

In Romans 9:4

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Paul says it is the “Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises”

God adopted Israel, and now God adopts believers into the church for which His Son died!

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But Why?



**Martin
Luther**

**“God’s
will has
no
“Why.””**

God is God.

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And because of that fact, His
purpose and activity have no
ultimate cause outside of His own
being.

As often as it is misapplied, the
biblical fact still remains:

God is Love.

And It Was In Love

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That the Father chose sinful people
before the foundation of the world
and foreordained them to be His
sons and daughters...

Through the finished work of the
Son...

And sealed for all eternity by the
Holy Spirit.



Warren Wiersbe:

**“When you
were born
again into
God’s family,
you were born
rich.”**

Ephesians 1:6

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“to the praise of the
glory of His grace,
which He freely
bestowed on us in the
Beloved.”

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II. The ELECTION of the Father.

A. When?

BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF
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IN LOVE HE PREDESTINED
US

C. For What Reason?

PRAISE AND GLORY

God's Grace

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- “his eternal and unconditional good will which found decisive expression in time in the saving work of Christ”
- Psalm 66:1-2 calls for “all the earth” to “Sing the glory of His name,” as the Psalmist celebrates God’s deliverance of Israel from the hands of its enemies.
- How much more cause does the NT saint have to praise the Lord?





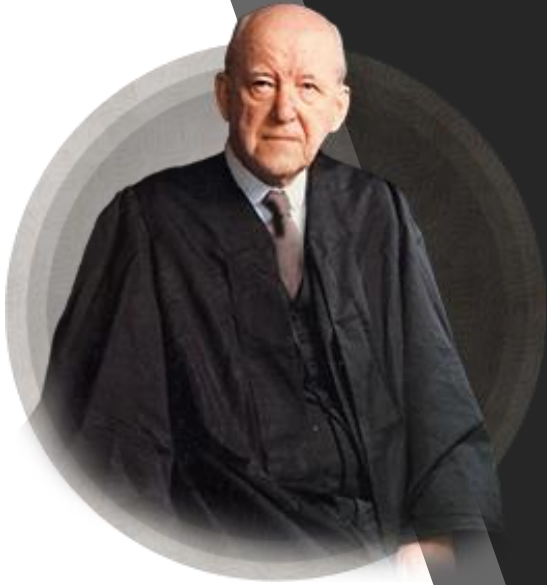
And So...

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How much more should we “sing the glory of His name” for not only our deliverance from hell but for our adoption “freely bestowed on us” as sons and daughters!

Martin Lloyd-Jones

“Let us pause and contemplate these things...of what adoption means and the things that follow from it. Let us spend less time with the newspapers and with all the talk about worldly honours...We, as Christians, have been predestinated to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ unto God Himself. Praise be unto God for having looked upon us as miserable, damned sinners, and for having raised us up to such an indescribably height of glory.”



Coming Full Circle In Him

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“In Him”

“He chose us”

“He predestined us to adoption”

“Grace” was “freely bestowed”

“in the Beloved”

NET: “in His dearly loved Son”



**“While all our hearts and all
our songs**

**Join to admire the feast
Each of us cry with thankful
tongues**

“Lord, why was I a guest?”

**“Why was I made to hear
Thy voice**

**And enter while there’s
room**

**When thousands make a
wretched choice**

**And rather starve than
come?”**

In Christ, You Are:

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Blessed

Chosen

Predestined

Adopted

Covered with Grace

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