

Ephesians 1:4 - 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love NASB

A. He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world – Divine election is a constant theme in the writings of Paul. (Rom 8:28-11:36, Col 3:12, 1 Thes 1:4, 2 Thes 2:13, Tit 1:1) The church has been “called out” of the world by the eternal decree of God before the beginning of time (Tit 1:1-2, 2 Tim 1:9). Here, salvation is seen to begin in the mind of God and by His sovereign will before any human ever lived or did anything good or bad. When God decided to create the world and give man free choice, He also planned to save men from sins by the sacrifice of His Son, and consequently choose a body of people from every tribe and language and nation and people, and draw them to the Savior to be found in Him. After being born again and coming to a knowledge of the truth, having believed upon the Lord Jesus Christ through repentance and faith, we learn that our destiny had been set beforehand according the decree of God in eternity past. Predestination is made clear here in the book of Ephesians (v-1:4-5, v-1:11-12) and also Romans (8:28-9:23) as we see the eternal plan of God in history.

1 Peter 1:1-2 - 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **who are chosen 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure. NASB

B. that we should be holy and blameless before Him - Here again we see the work of God in salvation. God has taken those who are not holy or blameless and has made them holy and blameless by His own work. Another profound blessing in Christ is “*imputed righteousness*” that we receive in Him. Christ’s holiness and blamelessness have been imputed to us and we now stand holy and blameless before God, in Christ. And all of this was motivated by God’s great love with which He has loved us.

Colossians 1:22 - 22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order **to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach** — NASB

Jude 24 -24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and **to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless** with great joy, NASB

Ephesians 1:5-6 - 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. NASB

A. He predestined us to adoption as sons – Here we see that not only was our destiny set beforehand but that it is unto “the adoption as sons.” We have been made sons by the eternal decree of God! Our fathers may have handed down to us an empty world and an empty way of life (1 Pet 1:18) but God has a better plan for those whom He has chosen and predestined in Christ. All of this He freely offers to those who will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, who will turn no man or woman away (John 6:37).

Romans 8:29-30 - 29 For **whom He foreknew, He also predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; 30 and **whom He predestined, these He also called**; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. NASB

B. to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved – Here we see the motivating factor in God’s will to predestine and chose us to be holy and blameless, it was for the praise of the glory of His grace. It was so we the church would praise Him for His free grace in pardoning us from our sins. This redemption that

we possess was “*freely bestowed*” upon us in Christ. We didn’t earn it, nor could we, having already sinned and become deserving of death. We were formerly in a desperate state of sin and death, awaiting the fearful and dreaded judgment of God but were “*graciously pardoned*” by the kind intention of God’s sovereign will. We now glorify God for His amazing grace, which He freely gave us in Christ! Could there be a greater gift?

Ephesians 1:7-8 - 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, 8 which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight NASB

A. In Him we have redemption through His blood the forgiveness of our trespasses – Again we see the theme of being “in Him.” Here it is redemption that we possess in Him. We have been redeemed, which means to “buy back.” Christ paid a price for our redemption, His precious blood. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin (Heb 9:22) therefore our sins required a dear price. The justice of God demanded full payment so that we could be forgiven. Forgiveness of sins is freely given by God, but it was bought with a desperate and severe price, the precious blood of Christ!

1 Peter 1:18-19 - 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but **with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.** NASB

Hebrews 9:12-13 - 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but **through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.** NASB

B. according to the riches of His grace which He lavished upon us – Now here is a statement beyond all comprehension! Imagine what the riches of the grace of *the infinite and eternal God* must be like. I tell you they are inexhaustible resources of “*unmerited favor*” that we who are in Christ will partake of forever and ever, world without end! And these He “*lavishes upon us*” in Christ. We have riches in Christ beyond our wildest imagination! We have been reconciled to God, made holy and blameless before Him, and become the recipients of His eternal favor toward His Son to whom we belong! We are the bride! We have entered into the joy of our Beloved and will here be treated like a royal queen all the days of eternity, yes even forever and ever!

Psalms 103:8-12 - 8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. 9 He will not always strive with us; Nor will He keep His anger forever. 10 He has **not dealt with us according to our sins.** Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. 12 **As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.** NASB

C. In all wisdom and insight – Here is the *means* by which we lay hold of the riches of God in Christ. We appropriate them by the understanding and application of them that come by divine wisdom and insight. As we learn of the resources we have, we then apply them to every situation we face, acknowledging god in all our ways.

Colossians 1:9 - 9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding** NASB

Ephesians 1:9 - 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him NASB

A. made known to us the mystery of His will – This mystery is spoken of 7 times in Ephesians. The mystery is that “which has been kept secret for long ages past” (Rom 16:25) and has now been disclosed to the church. Namely that God was in Christ reconciling even the Gentiles to Himself. The mystery is the entire plan of salvation

which has now unfolded in Christ and the gospel.

Colossians 1:26 - 26 that is, the mystery which **has been hidden from the past ages and generations**; but has now been manifested to His saints, NASB

Romans 16:25-27 - 25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to **the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past**, 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; NASB

B. according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him – God has done these things without the aid of anyone but, purposed in Himself to accomplish these things, even keeping them hidden for ages until He was ready to reveal them. The plan of salvation, even the entire creation, was and is happening all according the sovereign and eternal plan of God as verse 11 states. God has purposed in His own sovereign will to bless us, to choose us, to adopt, redeem and forgive us, and then to reveal it all to us.

1 Corinthians 2:10-13 - 10 **For to us God revealed them through the Spirit**; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but **the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God**, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. NASB