

Ephesians 1:1-4 I am Chosen

INTRO: Several years ago the LA. Times reported the story of an elderly man and his wife who were found dead in their apartment

A)Autopsies revealed that both had died of **severe malnutrition**,

B)although investigators found a total of \$40,000 dollars in paper bags in closet

C)How tragic - they had resources of wealth that they didn't use –

1)and consequently died - because of it! Malnourished!

For many years Hetty Green was called America's greatest miser.

A)When she died in 1916 she left an estate valued at \$100 mill.

B)that was an incredible amount of money in 1916

1)Despite her vast fortune - she ate cold oatmeal, in order to save the expense of heating the water

C)When her son had a severe leg injury, she took so long in trying to find a **free clinic** to treat him that his leg ... amputated

1.) Because of **advanced infection**

D)**She was wealthy but chose to live like a pauper!**

The thing I find interesting about Hetty Green and the elderly couple, is I think they are a GOOD illustration of many Christians!

A)They have been radically blessed - yet they live like spiritual paupers!

B) They struggle thru life & their walks because they are not appropriating the spiritual wealth – supplied **IN CHRIST**

C)And jut like that elderly couple; some believers are in danger of suffering from **spiritual malnutrition**

D)Because they **do not take advantage** of the great storehouse of spiritual nourishment

1)and resources at their disposal.

The Book of Ephesians has been given such titles as the MT Everest of the NT – Pinnacle truth

A) **The believers bank account, Christians check book and treasure house of the bible**

B)This beautiful letter tells us of our great riches, our inheritances, **IN CHRIST!**

C)Theme is our Identity in Christ – Paul uses that phrase in one form or another over 22 times

1)**Aside from learning about Jesus** – Our identity in Christ is the **single greatest theme in the NT.**

D)Romans – Justification/ Redemption:

Colossians – sufficiency

1)Galatians – Freedom – Hebrews – Better

Last week we noted that the Bible tells us that EVERYTHING broken in the world is connected to the events in Genesis chapter 3 – THE FALL

A)There we have the record of the moment man chose to believe **“the Lie of lies” —**

B)which says that you can find meaning and identity from something other than God;

1)find meaning and identity from created things — rather than the Creator.

C)Man choose to find his identity apart from God

1)Ever since that time man has been trying to find his **“replacement identity.”**

D)Searching for his identity in what he DOES, in what he POSSESSES, in who he KNOWS

1)or in some form of status.

But Jesus came to fix what Man has broken –

A)To rescue man from his pursuit of a replacement identity and help him find his identity in God

QUOTE: Paul Tripp — *Because we have been rescued by the death and resurrection of Jesus we not only have a new DESTINY — we have a new IDENTITY.*

B)Our identity is connected to who we are in Christ!

1)Miracle of miracles – When we receive Jesus – He comes to live in our hearts by his spirit

C)But we are also placed in Him! –

1) **New Position** – God sees us in his son – covered in the righteousness of Christ

D) No longer sees us in our flaws – He sees us in Jesus

Not Just a new Position but a new existence!

A) That is Paul's focus in Chapters 1-3 – who we are in Jesus.

B) He will use that phrase in Christ or in Him over and over again.

C) Last time we learned the first thing about our New Identity :V.1 In Christ I am a Saint

1) SAINT = Set apart

D) Set apart to someone – Jesus

- Set apart from something – the world
- Set apart for Something – Eternal Purpose

E) The 2nd thing that we briefly touched on in V. 3 is that **IN CHRIST – I am blessed!**

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Paul Starts like a Conductor of a Symphony/Boom!

A) With a single word Paul unpacks another radical, life changing - outcome of our rescue — “**BLESSED**”.

B) Paul tells us 3 things here about these Blessing – 1st they are Present tense – has blessed us

C) They are ours to enjoy right now !

1) They are to become our identity and form the way we function in life

2nd they are Spiritual blessings that originate in Heaven – “All spiritual blessings in heavenly places

A) those blessings have their origins in Heaven. They come from the very throne of God.

B) They come to us by way of the Holy Spirit.

1) But they are blessings that we are to walk in and enjoy **RIGHT NOW!**

C) 3rd They are made available to us – **In Christ** –

In V.4-14 Paul begins to describe for us these incredible blessings that are ours to enjoy.

A) These blessings that form our identity and status of being in Christ!

B) In V. 4 he begins by telling us that **IN Christ - I AM CHOSEN!**

⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world,

C) By inspiration of the Holy Spirit Paul tells us salvation begins with God, not with man.

1) I didn't choose God. God chose me!

D) The theological term **FOR THIS** is **ELECTION.**

People have been baffled by ELECTION

A) They wonder -how God can sovereignly choose us without violating the will of man.

QUOTE: Warren Wiersbe “Try to explain election and you may lose your mind. But try to explain it away and you may lose your soul!”

B) Guys — the mystery of sovereign election and human responsibility will never be solved in this life.

C) Both sovereign election and human responsibility are taught in the Bible.

Let me give you an example of both- Election

A) The night before Jesus died Jesus said “*You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you*” (John 15:16).

B) Jesus is making it clear – this starts with me!

1) God is the initiator in Salvation – You might of felt like you were searching –

C) But God started drawing you and stirring your heart long before that.

God is the initiator in Salvation- However the Bible also makes it clear –

A) We still have a responsibility to **RESPOND Him!**

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that hears say, Come. And let him

*that is thirsty come. **And whosoever will**, let him take the water of life freely.*

B) So God Choses and we have to respond

C) Now in Romans 8 God gives us some insight into this process of election.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

So Everything is working together for Good if you love God and are called according to his purposes

A) But Who are the called ?

Romans 8:29-30

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

B) Here in Romans 8:29 & 30 Paul gives us tremendous insight into this Process – called election

C) Starts with *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined*:

D) So what Paul is telling us here is this:

1) We are Predestined & called according to the foreknowledge of God

E) Peter put it this way 1 Peter 1:2 We are the Elect according to the foreknowledge of God

But what does that word Foreknowledge mean?

A) Now when we talk about the Foreknowledge of God – there is a General & a Specific understanding to the Word

B) In a General sense – God’s Foreknowledge – speaks of Him knowing things in ADVANCE

C) **Pastor Chuck - Parade analogy / Infinite looking into the finite – sees everything at Once –**

1) We see it only as it happens – He sees the whole perspective

D) So in a General sense – it speaks of knowing in Advance –

1) God knew before you were even born – before world began

E) You were going to respond to His gift of Salvation offered thru Christ

In a Specific sense it means much more:

A) In a specific sense – God’s foreknowledge – speaks of Him knowing someone in advance.

B) The word FOREKNOWLEDGE comes from the word to Know

C) It is used 500 times in the O.T. & 220 times in the N.T./

1) In Almost every case it is **TRANSLATED** to Know intimately / relationship

John 17:3 ³*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

C) O.T. – Gen. 4:25 Adam Knew His wife again (Very Intimate)

1) It speaks of Knowing in an intimate personal way / knowing them - In a Relationship !!!!!

D) So When we talk about the Foreknowledge of God – it is always used in the sense of Relationship

1) God Knowing some one in Relationship

Now when you put the General and the specific together it sheds Incredible light on this whole Concept

A) Because it means more than the Fact that God simply knew What you were going to do in Advance

B) But it actually means that God Knew You in Advance / He knew You in A relationship /

1) He saw You in Christ – before Creation

C) Think of it this way What is the Lord going to say to unbelievers in Judgement ?

1) *Depart from me I never Knew You*

D) Did He Know everything about them?

Absolutely – but He didn’t Know them intimately –

1) He didn’t have a relationship w. them!!!

E)Isn't God AMAZING! That just blows our minds of the magnitude of God's glory and Person!

If my God was small enough for me to completely understand – he would not be big enough for me to worship! Evelyn Underhill

A)Don't get discouraged or confused that you can't figure everything out about God!!!

B)That is a good thing!

C)The whole salvation process is far more majestic than we even realize most of the time!

Think about this

A)Revelation 13:8 describes Jesus as the lamb who was slain before the foundation of the world!

B)So the triune Godhead decides to make a world – people in that world – choice –

1)He knows – man who he made was going to rebel – they would sin = separation and slavery

C)They would need to be rescued –

The rescuer would need to be His Son – it would cost him his life.

A)Some of the people that God loved – He loves the world – would choose his son – choose life

B)Others would reject it – Choose their own path

C)The ones that would choose Him and the life He offered – He saw them in Christ

1)He knew them way before in Jesus – He saw the relationship

D)He dwells in the now – He experienced the relationship before any of it went down.

E)Alpha and Omega – He saw and experienced it all

1)Before it ever happened

Now we can't comprehend that totally!

A)The closest thing we experience is to envision what something might be

B)Get married envision a certain kind of life – Discover that – WAY DIFFERENT

1)WONDERFUL BUT DIFFERENT – harder than we imagined

C)My Hip surgery – I can envision long hikes – maybe being able to surf again

1)I can envision it – worth it

D)God didn't just see it in advance – he experienced it in advance –

1)That is the idea behind Foreknowledge – Foreknowing!

E)**Eph 1:4 Chose us in Him !!!** He saw you in His Son

4even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

A)This is not an exhortation – I chose you to be Holy and Blameless or else – better get it right

B)In the context – Paul is saying – this is the byproduct of your Election – Position

C)I chose you to be – to make you Holy and without Blame! –

1)That is how I see you in my son!

D)So He is speaking of our position here more than our practice.

Holy is derived from the same word as Saint – Hagios

A)Set apart – I have chosen you to be set apart to me, from the world and for an eternal purpose.

B)That is your position as my child!

C)Without blame – No accusations – Perfect

1)Anyone here Perfect? – No accusers

Satan is called the accuser of the brethren

A)He is constantly bring accusations against us

B)Jesus is our defense attorney – PAID IN FULL

1)case dismissed!

C)Crunch – No Judgments – Jesus was crushed

That is your position in Christ!

A)Set apart to God – Holy – With out blame – Righteous

**B)Not because of who you are – but where!
1)Not because of your performance but His!**

We are **chosen**, not because we are **holy**, but that we may be made **holy**. The election precedes the character, and is indeed the moving cause in producing the character. **Spurgeon**

C)Now some would say wait a minute Pastor Rob doesn't the Bible command us to **BE HOLY AS I AM HOLY....?**

The Answer is Yes – but in this sense!

A)This is a reoccurring theme in the NT – God says this to us over and over in various ways

B)Be who you are in Christ – instead of who you were in your flesh.

C)This is how I see you – IN Christ – so live now in that reality!

¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts. Romans 13:12-14

Put on the Lord Jesus – Clothe yourself in the garments of salvation!

A)Be who you are in Christ – instead of what you were in your flesh!

B)As we close today – Remember our world is filled with countless men and women who are crushed by the weight of guilt and shame;

C)Guilt and for things they have done — and Shame because of what's been done to them.

1)Whether you sin, or are sinned against — you are defiled by sin.

What is a man or woman to do whose lives are defined by the wrongs they've done —

A)or the ways they've been wronged?

B)What are they to do with all of their sin and all of their shame?

C)The Gospel declares that on the cross Jesus bore all of your sin; all of your guilt.

Isaiah 53:6the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

On the cross Jesus bore all of your shame.

A)The Gospel says because of Jesus you are no longer defined by the wrongs you've done —

B)or the ways you have been wronged.

C)The Gospel sets us free from all of that.

D)Right here in **Ephesians 1:4 Paul tells us that we are defined by what Jesus has done for us!**

Because of Jesus, because I am in Jesus

A)I'm chosen! - I'm set apart to God and for God.

B)I am without blame and without shame in the presence of God.

C)Jesus offers complete forgiveness and cleansing by His blood! - Today – You can be in Christ! –

D)God sees you in His son Holy and Blameless

E)Are you Chosen? RESPOND