

Text: Eph 1.4-6

Tonight, we will look into a few verses that give commentators and Christians a little trouble in interpretation. First, though, we need to review where we are.

Ephesians 1

Key features of this chapter:

Three sentences in Greek

1-2: Greeting

3-14: Theme (Expanded)

15-23: Prayer

Second section divided into three parts

Marker: "to the praise of his glory," v. 6, 12, 14

Focus of each section:

1. (3-6) God the Father
2. (7-12) Jesus Christ
3. (13-14) The Spirit

Verse 3 is a "header" verse – it sort of stands alone and could be thought of as the heading of each section.

Big theme: "blessing" — speaking well of, saying a good word about/to

The blessings in view are the Spiritual Blessings expanded on in each of the three sections.

Our title for tonight's study: **"The Chosen Are Predestinated"**

I. The first spiritual blessing

What do the words "just as" that open 1.4 refer to? **the spiritual blessings mentioned in 1.3**

What is the spiritual blessing in v. 4? **choosing us**

Grammar lesson: sorting out the sentence structure

Main verb: (He) chose us [for something]

In him (sphere of the choice)

Before the foundation of the world (**time** of the choice)

Verbal thought: (He) chose us ... to be holy and blameless

“to be” is an infinitive, modifying “chose,” expressing either purpose or result

translated “that we would be” NAU

translated “that we should be” KJV

As purpose: He chose us SO THAT we would be holy and blameless

As result: He chose us RESULTING in us being holy and blameless

Are we holy and blameless now? **not completely**

Will we be holy and blameless someday? **yes**

When Paul says, “he chose us to be holy and blameless” what is the choice for?

1. For our salvation? _____

2. For our destination? **✓**

What is the basis of the choice? **the text doesn't say**

Where will the state of being holy and blameless be realized? **before Him (heaven)**

The words “in love” are connected with v. 4 in the KJV and v.5 in the NAU, with a marginal note “Or Him, in love”

Personally, I think it makes more sense for “in love” to be connected to v. 4, describing *how* you become holy and blameless, through your love relationship with God (Jesus).

II. The first spiritual blessing expanded

The KJV opens here, “having predestinated us...” — this is a more literal translation than the NAU, “He predestinated us.” We do not have a new verbal idea in v. 5.

Some Calvinists want to make predestination causal: *i.e.* “he chose us (4) ... BECAUSE he predestined us (5)”

This is grammatically incorrect: instead, the predestining and the choosing are happening at the same time (or are aspects of the same event).

He chose us to be holy and blameless... to what did he predestine us?

to (into) the adoption_of_sons [all one word in Gk]

What does adoption mean? (esp. Roman adoption, Julius Caesar adopted Octavian [later Augustus])

legal heir, rights and privileges of a son

The focus of this predestining is: our destination in heaven

How does the adoption occur? through Jesus Christ

What motivated the planned adoption? the kind intention (blessing) of his will

III. The part of “hims” and concluding doxology

Let's sort out the he/him in the passage — who is it?

He chose us (4) the Father

In Him (4) the Son

Before him (4) the Father

He predestined (5) the Father

To himself (5) the Father

His will (5) the Father

Turning to verse 6, what is the purpose of this spiritual blessing?

The praise of the glory of his grace

How did God bestow his grace on us?

In the beloved, that is, Jesus Christ