

CHOSEN!
Ephesians 1:3-14

INTRODUCTION

- A. Celebrations!
 - 1. Birthdays, Anniversaries – decorations, cards, gifts and pictures.
 - 2. As a nation we celebrate – Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving.
 - 3. All of these reminders of where we have been, what got us here and what we stand for.
- B. The Bible.
 - 1. A celebration of what God has done for us.
 - 2. The Lord's Supper – death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
- C. Paul celebrates how God has blessed us.

I. CHOSEN IN LOVE, vss. 3-4.

- A. Before the Foundation of the World.
 - 1. "Picked out" as a man rescues something valuable from a garbage can.
 - 2. 2 Thess. 2:13-14
 - 3. When a person chooses to obey Christ, he is among the chosen.
 - 4. John 1:12, "*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.*"
- B. Purpose: To be holy and blameless before Him.
 - 1. It was not an aimless or haphazard plan, Deut. 7:6-8.
 - 2. We have been chosen to be holy, Eph. 5:27.

II. ADOPTED AS SONS, vs. 5.

- A. "Predestined."
 - 1. Means "to determine before" or "determine from eternity."
 - 2. But what was determined before?
 - 3. Salvation in Christ, Gal. 4:4-5.
- B. Not merely to the outer limits or fringes of the family.
 - 1. We have been chosen to enjoy all the privileges of access and love the parent may provide.
 - 2. All are sons of God, through obedient faith, Gal. 3:26-27.
 - 3. No longer slaves, but sons, Gal. 4:6-7.

III. HIS GLORIOUS GRACE, vs. 6.

- A. The purpose of this "election."
 - 1. To bring praise to God.
 - 2. To show the wonderful grace and kindness of God.
- B. Nothing we can do to earn this adoption.
 - 1. The greater our need – the greater God's grace, Rom. 5:20!
 - 2. Eph. 2:4-9.
 - 3. It is totally out of our hands.

IV. REDEEMED BY BLOOD, vss. 7-10.

- A. A price is paid for our liberation.
 - 1. An Old Testament concept:
 - a. Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage – redemption.
 - b. Buying back a slave or captive.
 - 2. The blood of Christ paid for the sinner's release.
 - a. Rom. 3:21-25
 - b. Romans 5:8-9
 - 3. No one forced God to do this, strictly of His freewill.
- B. The “mystery” of His will...
 - 1. Defining “mystery” – “divine truth revealed.”
 - 2. No man knew anything of God's plan until God revealed it.
 - 3. And it is open to the one who desires to know.
- C. The administration – God's plan to unite all things in Christ.
 - 1. Christ is designated by God as the only One in whom any kind of real togetherness can be found.
 - 2. Col. 1:16-20

V. OUR SPIRITUAL INHERITANCE, vss. 11-14.

- A. God's chosen people.
- B. All blessings of God's inheritance available for all mankind, John 3:16.
- C. Our inheritance is a spiritual blessing.
 - 1. The Spirit is a guarantee of the inheritance to those expressing their trust in Christ.
 - 2. John 1:12; 3:3, 5 – those who believe and are born again.
 - 3. Acts 2:38-39; 5:32 – repent and are baptized, obedient.