

Episode #2-36 - Chosen In Christ

I. The purpose of Paul's epistle to the Ephesians is to tell us what God's present purpose is in all His work today. This includes His work in the world and in the individual believer. Ephesians is the book of God's present purpose, the book of being "in Christ," and the book of God's grace.

II. The longest sentence in the Bible is found in Ephesians 1:3-14. From verse 3, we learned that the subject is "God," the verb is "blesses," and the direct object is "us," those who are "in Christ." God does not fish for nice things to say about us. He makes these things true of us, and then He speaks well of us about them. Therefore, this sentence is a long statement of all the glorious things God makes true of us in Christ.

III. Ephesians 1:4. He chooses us.

A. Chosen = Greek *eklegomai*, to choose, "elect."

1. Did He choose us to be saved?

2. We will see what He chose us for at the end of the verse.

B. Chosen before the creation of the earth?

1. No, for foundation is not equal to creation, and world is not equal to earth.

2. Foundation = *katabole* = to cast down along certain lines. "Found" is a good translation.

3. World = Greek *kosmos* = an orderly system or arrangement.

a. We speak of the "world of sports," but never the "earth of sports."

b. Someone is in "his own little world," but not "on his own little earth."

c. God has chosen us before the foundation of His future world. This means the kingdom of God!

C. God has chosen us to be holy and without blame.

1. This does not mean we were chosen for salvation, but chosen for a future reality.

2. This is what we will be!

IV. Conclusion: In this, the longest sentence in the Bible, we learn all the glorious things God says are true of us in Christ. In verse 4, we are chosen in Him before God founds His order on earth to be holy and flawless in His sight in that time to come. What a glorious thing it will be to be set apart and flawless in the sight of the sinless and perfect God! We who are in Christ have great privileges indeed. How thankful we should be for God's grace!