

Morning Sermon Outline – July 2, 2017
“Chosen”

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (Ephesians 1:4 NKJ)

I. See the doctrine of election in the context of blessings –

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, (Ephesians 1:3 NKJ)

Ephesians 1:3, is the introduction to a LONG SENTENCE list of spiritual blessings that continues down to verse :14 “He chose us” starts that list!

Now one long sentence is not necessarily good English but it is great Greek and even better Biblical Blessing. Paul say God has blessed us with “every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”

I am certain reading; even Paul’s Biblical sentence, does not quite cover the actual experience and enjoyment that this ultimately means for us who are chosen!

R. Kent Hughes referring to this passing and particularly to the fact we are chosen says –

“God’s eternal choice is warm and smiling — far from the dispassionate stereotype so often thought of.” R. Kent Hughes

This is my main first point!

- 1. Paul’s starts his letter to the Ephesians with a list of blessings*
- 2. First in that list is the doctrine of election*
- 3. Included also in that list, twice, is the dreadful, terrible, heartless, cold doctrine of Predestination –*

he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, (Eph. 1:5 ESV)

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, (Eph. 1:11 ESV)

Now, my point is these things are not really dreadful, terrible, heartless and cold but “warm and smiling” BLESSINGS of GOD!

II. See God’s choice of us, His election of us, as being “in Him” - just as He chose us in Him ... (Ephesians 1:4 NKJ)

1. *The first qualification we know of concerning these who are chosen of God is that they are “in Him” which again refers back to verse :3 our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ ... “in Him” refers to “in Christ”*

2. *These are the ones who are chosen, the ones the Father “gives” to Jesus –*

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. (John 6:37 NKJ)

All, every single one that the father gives to Christ, will come to Christ!

No one outside of that group, can come to Christ, not truly, they have to be drawn -

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:44 NKJ)

A. *This does not mean that God shuts people out who really would want to come to Jesus, no rather He invites them, He gives them every opportunity truly to come –*

But to Israel he says: “All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people.” (Romans 10:21 NKJ)

B. *He knocks on doors of hearts –*

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. ... (Revelation 3:20 NKJ)

C. *He yearns and cries for His People Who He would long to call His own –*

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! (Matthew 23:37 NKJ)

Notice what Jesus says in Matthew 23:37

- *He would gather them! He loved and cared!*
- *They were “not willing!”*

D. *Our will does not save us, it only damns us, because we don't by our wills receive Him:*

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:11-13 NKJ)

E. *We seek and choose other things before Christ –*

Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." (John 6:26-27 NKJ)

F. *God tells us in His word, none of us actually choose Him or seek Him without Him choosing us first –*

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (Romans 3:10-11 NKJ)

It is appropriate that this point is made with the letter F, because we all FAIL miserably in the seeking God department!

*We love and choose Him because He first loved and chose us –
We love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19 NKJ)*

III. *Now, as there is nothing good in us, we are all sinners, none is righteous, and none of us naturally choose Him, when did He choose us? Was this plan B, after He stretched out His hands to the world?*

... He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world...
(Ephesian1:4 NKJ)

1. *Those He chooses; choose Him, they choose Him and what He has to offer –*

"But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." ⁶⁶ From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" ⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ "Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" ⁷¹ He spoke of Judas Iscariot, *the son of Simon*, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve. (John 6:64-71 NKJ)

Judas was chosen in a sense, but not before the foundation of the world. Those who were Christ's true chosen were ready to follow when everyone else turned away.

2. *Judas was the Son of perdition –*

"While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. (John 17:12 NKJ)

Is lost—perdition (ἀπόλετο—ἀπωλείας). A play of words: "None of them *perished*, but the *son of perishing*" (Westcott).

It might be phrased none was lost but the son of lostness!

Christ speaks here of himself as one who had already died, was risen, and ascended, though none of all these things were past, because they were so suddenly to come to pass. I have, (says our Savior,) for all the time that I have abode in the world, and conversed with them, *kept them in thy name*, i. e. in the steady owning and profession of thy truth; or (if we read it, through thy name) it signifies through thy power, and the influence of thy grace. I have not so kept all that came to hear me, but all *those* You have given me by the act of thy eternal counsel; or *You gave to me* to be my apostles: and none of them is proved an apostate, but *the son of perdition*: none of them is lost whom You gave me by thy eternal gift, none of them whom You gave me to be my apostles, but one who, though he was my apostle, and in that sense given to me, yet was never given me by thy eternal gift, as one to be by me redeemed, and brought to eternal life and salvation; for he was a *son of perdition*: we have this term applied to antichrist, 2 Thess. 2:3. As *the son of death*, 2 Sam. 12:5, signifies one appointed to die, or that deserves to die; and *the child of hell*, Matt. 23:15, signifies one who deserves hell; so *the son of perdition* may either signify one destined to perdition, or one that walks in the high and right road to perdition, or rather both; one who being passed over in God's eternal counsels, as to such as shall be saved, hath by his own willful apostacy brought himself to eternal perdition, or into such a guilt as I know thou wilt destroy him. And by this the Holy Scripture is fulfilled, Psal. 109:8, for that is the portion of Scripture here intended, as is apparent from Acts 1:20, where the apostle applieth that text to Judas, who is here spoken of. Other scriptures also were thus fulfilled, as Psal. 41:9, compared with John 13:18. Matthew Poole

See the referenced passages -
Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me. ¹⁰ But You, O LORD, be merciful to me, and raise me up, That I may repay them. ¹¹ By this I know that You are well pleased with me, because my enemy does not triumph over me. (Psalm 41:9-11 NKJ)

"I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.' (John 13:18 NKJ)

Let his days be few, And let another take his office. (Psalm 109:8 NKJ)

"Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; ¹⁷ 'for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.' ¹⁸ (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ 'For it is written in the book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.' (Acts 1:16-20 NKJ)

Judas was prophesied, long before as a betrayer, as a lost son of perdition. Judas did not need to be chosen to be a son of Hell. He was that by birth, by nature as a son of Adam. Being such and not chosen otherwise, before the foundation of the world. Even though chosen by Christ, to High and Privileged Position APOSTLE his (Judas') wickedness ran over that gate of privilege... Oh how horrible, against great grace we run into sin –

"The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." ²⁵ Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it." (Matthew 26:24-25 NKJ)

However to be saved we need to be those who are chosen - before the foundation of the world – Ephesians 1:4

Like a train our sins must be stopped EARLY to avoid a worse crash!

They are in Christ Who is -... the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8 NKJ)

John Newton used to tell a whimsical story, and laugh at it, too, of a good woman who said, in order to prove the doctrine of election, "Ah! sir, the Lord must have loved me before I was born, or else He would not have seen anything in me to love afterwards." C.H. Spurgeon

IV. *God's purpose in choosing us before the foundation of the world –*

... that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (Ephesian1:4 NKJ)

1. *Holy – ἅγιος* hagios {hag'-ee-os}

Meaning: 1) most holy thing, a saint

A. *True Holiness requires the new birth – John 3:7*

"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' (John 3:7 NKJ)

True holiness is not an accumulation of so-called good works, done in the flesh, rather it is the fruit of a new, powerful, spiritual, divine life within; it is the result of the spiritual heart surgery only God can do.

This a radical change – Ezekiel 36:26-27

Ezekiel 36:26 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

It is a new birth brought about by God's Spirit, there fore the how of it is mysterious to us –

"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8 NKJ)

B. *This Holiness leads to a hunger for the heavenly, increasing energy in the service and worship of God which marks every part of a believer's life –*

(1) *A chosen, holy believer is a new creature – 2 Corinthians 5:17*
2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

(2) *As new creatures we have NEW Desires for -*

- For the pure milk of the Word – 1 Peter 2:2

NKJ 1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

- For things above – Colossians 3:2

NKJ Colossians 3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

- For righteousness –

NKJ Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

(3) *The more we depend upon God, and feed on His Word, the more energetic we will be in service – Isaiah 40:31*

NKJ Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

(4) *As God's chosen, holy ones, we have a life in us akin to those creatures closest to God; which are the liveliest -*

NKJ Revelation 4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

As Jacob's love for Rachel love for God should make service of God and holiness easier – Genesis 29:20; Deuteronomy 6:4-5

NKJ Genesis 29:20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her.

NKJ Deuteronomy 6:4 " Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

2. *Without blame - ἀμωμος* amomos {am'-o-mos}

Meaning: 1) without blemish 1a) as a sacrifice without spot or blemish 2) morally: without blemish, faultless, unblameable

A. *We are only blameless because of Christ's blood, He washes us clean –*

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (Revelation 1:5 NKJ)

And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Revelation 7:14 NKJ)

B. *We are to carry this righteousness of Christ throughout our lives -*

ALEPH. Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD! (Psalm 119:1 NKJ)

Arnold A. Brevick