



The Word at Work

Chosen In Christ

Reading the Word

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 1:4; see below

Key Points:

Being chosen is the first of the seven good things that we have, from being united to Christ, which I have identified in Eph.1:3-14

There are four main things to say about it:

1. We are chosen in Christ

- a. We are not chosen and so included in Christ; we are counted as chosen because we are in Christ.
- b. Just as a natural Israelite belonged to God's chosen people in the OT by natural birth, we belong to God's chosen people in the NT by spiritual birth (John 1:12).
- c. We get into Christ by faith – by believing the gospel (Eph.1:13)
- d. We, the church, are the new Israel - chosen of God and his treasured possession (Deut.7:6)

2. We are chosen before the creation of the world

- a. We should not think of this as the selection of individuals but God's eternal plan to have a people
- b. The blessings that come from this are not accidental; they are part of God's eternal plan
- c. You do not have a purpose in life until you come to Christ.

3. We are chosen to be...for the praise of his glory (Eph.1:11-12)

- a. When thinking about why we were chosen, our focus should be not on how we were chosen but why – for what purpose?
- b. Natural Israel became proud and exclusive, forgetting that it had been chosen to glorify God and to take his salvation to the world (Isaiah 49:3,6)

- c. We are called to declare God's praises and cause people to glorify God (1 Peter 2:9-12)

4. Who are the people God chooses?

- a. God's chosen people are chosen on the basis of his grace, not their natural qualifications (Deut.7:7-8)
- b. God chooses the things that the world counts as nothing so that the world can realise its own inadequacy and we can only boast in his glory (1 Cor.1:26-31)
- c. So forget what the world thinks of you and be rich in faith toward God so that you inherit the Kingdom (James 2:5) – this means enjoying all he's got for you and bringing others to know him!

These good things are like new clothes that God puts on you – wear them with pride, confidence and dignity as you boast in the Lord.

Doing the Word

To Discuss:

1. How does it make you feel to know that you are part of God's special chosen people, his treasured possession?
2. Why is it important to know that the good things God does for us are not 'accidental' and don't 'just happen'?
3. What difference should it make to our lives knowing that, despite being nothing special in the eyes of the world, we have been chosen to fill the earth with God's glory?

To Do:

1. Thank God that you are part of his chosen people.
2. Enjoy being part of this special family by being fully involved in the church.
3. Start living with confidence and boldness because you know that you are chosen to be to the praise of God's glory.

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