

PART 4 of EPHESIANS 2020

COMPLETELY FAULTLESS IN HIS PRESENCE

Regardless of how I might fail

Ephesians 1:4 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

... He [the Father] chose us in Him [Christ] before the foundation of the world for us to be holy and blameless before Him [the Father], in love.

We saw last week ... we were chosen by the Father before time began ... that He had set you aside ... selected you before anything was created.

BUT WHAT WERE YOU CHOSEN FOR?

As young believers we believed WE WERE CHOSEN WHEN WE BELIEVED ...

Not as we are told here 'BEFORE TIME BEGAN'.

But we also believed we were CHOSEN FOR A TASK ... TO DO SOMETHING FOR GOD. We often heard it preached ... GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE.

SLIDE Christine Caine – An Australian Christian Leader wrote 'You and I are chosen for a purpose ... And that purpose always involves other people.'

THE CONCEPT IS, WE ARE SAVED TO SERVE

So, we went about zealously 'DOING' things for God. Off we went in every direction preaching Jesus ... seeing people saved and feeling great. And this went on until we got into ministry positions where we encouraged others to go out and DO SOMETHING FOR GOD.

There is a truth to this and God did do many amazing things at that time ...

BUT WE WERE NEVER TAUGHT THE GREATER TRUTH OF WHY WE WERE ULTIMATELY CHOSEN.

SLIDE WE WERE ULTIMATELY CHOSEN
NOT TO DO SOMETHING FOR GOD,
BUT TO BE SOMETHING WITH GOD.

Ephesians 1:4 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

Just as **He chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world for us **to be** holy and blameless before Him, in love.

NB: HE CHOSE US ... TO BE.

OUR TEXT TELLS US THERE ARE 3 THINGS WE'RE CHOSEN TO BE -

1. WE ARE CHOSEN TO BE IN HIS PRESENCE

Ephesians 1:4 **SLIDE** – The Berean Study Bible says it ...

For He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in His presence in love

Before Him = (katenōpion) Before the face of ... directly in front of.

'BEFORE HIM' MEANS IN HIS PRESENCE.

The Father has chosen us for Himself and wants us to be with Him **in his presence** forever.

As we mentioned last week, in John 17:6,
THE FATHER BROUGHT US TO JESUS - 'You gave them to Me' ...
But the wonderful thing is, when the whole redemption plan has been completed ... **JESUS WILL PRESENT US TO THE FATHER.**
Because this is the Father's ultimate purpose.

Colossians 1:22 **SLIDE**

But now He [Jesus] has reconciled [us] in His body of flesh through death, to present you holy and unblemished and blameless **before Him [the Father].**

NB: The same Greek word is used here as in Ephesians 1:4 - 'BEFORE HIM' MEANS IN HIS PRESENCE.

BUT YOU SAY ... WE ARE ALREADY WITH HIM -

Colossians 3:3 - your life is hidden with Christ in God

Ephesians 2:6 - He raised us and made us sit together with Him

Yes ... spiritually we are there with Him and we spiritually have access ...
(Ephesians 2:18)

BUT HE WANTS ALL OF YOU ... BODY, SOUL & SPIRIT

You know the song - 'All of Me' ...

*'All of me, why not take all of me ...
Take my lips, I want to lose them,
Take my arms, I'll never use them ...
You took the part, that once was my heart,
So why not take all of me.*

God wants ALL of us ...

THIS IS WHERE THE PHRASE 'HOLY & BLAMELESS' COMES IN ...

2. WE ARE CHOSEN TO BE HOLY & BLAMELESS

Ephesians 1:4 **SLIDE** Again, the Berean Study Bible says it ...

*For **He chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world **to be holy and blameless** in His presence in love*

WE ARE CHOSEN TO BE HOLY

*THIS IS NOT TALKING ABOUT **OUR JUSTIFICATION.***

*THIS IS TALKING ABOUT **OUR SANCTIFICATION.***

SLIDE

IN JUSTIFICATION & REGENERATION

OUR SPIRIT IS BORN AGAIN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT -

- **OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE IS MADE INSTANTLY HOLY**

We are therefore called '*Saints*' i.e. 'Holy ones' (Ephesians 1:1)

Hebrews 3:1 calls us '*Holy Brothers*'

IN SANCTIFICATION ...

THE REST OF US IS BECOMING WHO WE ARE SPIRITUALLY ...

WE ARE BEING COMPLETED FOR GOD ...

- **WE ARE BEING MADE COMPLETE FOR A HOLY GOD**

holy (hagious) **Adjective** Set apart by (or for) God, holy, sacred. From hagos; sacred.

BUT 'HOLY' IS NOT ONLY SEPARATED FROM THE WORLD & SET APART TO GOD. IT ALSO MEANS -

'HOLY' IN OURSELVES - 100% COMPLETE – UNITED IN OURSELF.

SLIDE THE FATHER WANTS ALL OF US TO BE WITH HIM –

BODY & SOUL - MIND, WILL & EMOTIONS - AS WELL AS SPIRIT ...

**GOD WANTS US TO BE WHOLLY HOLY ...
THAT IS ... BODY, SOUL & SPIRIT ... 100% CONSECRATED TO HIM.
WITHOUT IMPURE ADMIXTURE (Matthew 5:8)**

Let me put it loosely like this ...

If we think about us being a 3-part being i.e. body, soul and spirit, then ...

AT THE MOMENT, GOD HAS 1/3 OF US

Indeed, it is the most important part ... but nevertheless only 1/3.

BUT HE WANTS US ALL HOLY ... ALL OF US 100% CONSECRATED.

**SO WHEN GOD SAYS, WE WERE CHOSEN TO BE HOLY & BLAMELESS
- HE MEANS 'ALL OF US' ...**

WE ARE CHOSEN TO BE BLAMELESS

*The other word is BLAMELESS – faultless ... without blemish ...
without spot or wrinkle. (Ephesians 5:27)*

Not just sinless ... but also woundless ...

Sound emotionally ... mentally ...

Made whole ...

THE FATHER WANTS US TO BE LIKE HIM.

**3. WE ARE CHOSEN TO BE IN HIS LOVE –
THE FATHER WANTS US TO ENJOY HIM**

Ephesians 1:4 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*For **He chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world to be
holy and blameless in His presence in love*

THE RELIGIOUS TRAP OF 'HOLY & BLAMELESS'

Now, all this can get very religious ... quite moralistic and pompous ...

*And the concept of being separated from common sinners, like some flawless
model, can make us feel very exclusive and elitist ...*

- *WE USED TO SAY, 'LIPS THAT TOUCH WINE WILL NEVER TOUCH MINE'.*

WE COULD FEEL WE ARE BECOMING THE EPITOME OF PERFECTION

- *Remember the righteous Pharisee, 'I thank you God I am not like this sinner ...' (See Luke 18:11)*

**THIS COULD BE THE MEANING ... EXCEPT FOR ONE PHRASE –
'IN LOVE'.**

These two words destroy all legalism ... idealism ... perfectionism ...
We're becoming like the holy God we love ...

***THIS IS ALL HAPPENING IN HIS LOVE
WE ARE RESPONDING IN HIS LOVE***

WE LOVE HIS HOLINESS ...

WE LOVE HIS PERFECTION ...

WE LOVE HIS PRESENCE ...

GOD DOESN'T WANT SOME AUTOMATONS WHO OBEY BY ROTE

GOD WANTS US TO ENTER HIS LOVE ...

ENJOY HIS LOVE ...

AND EXPRESS HIS LOVE ...

NOTHING ELSE IS DESIRABLE TO HIM.

A SPOTLESS PIECE OF PERFECT PORCELAIN **SLIDE** -

Worth \$125,900.00 ... This is perfect and valuable, but cannot love.

***The Father doesn't just want an ornament ... some pure, priceless, pristine
piece of porcelain ...***

***HE WANTS YOU & I ... LIVING BREATHING PERSONS ... PURE & HOLY ... IN HIS
LOVE ...***

Commentators have differing views about where the phrase 'In Love' should
appear in Ephesians 1:4.

Some say it belongs to being 'Chosen', as in, 'Chosen in Love'.

Some say it belongs to the next verse - 'In Love being Predestined'.

The original places it here, 'In His presence in love', as also in the KJV.

BUT I CONCLUDE THAT ALL ARE CORRECT.

***HIS LOVE COVERS ALL THESE ASPECTS AND EVEN MORE.
SO WE CAN READ IT AS FOLLOWS ...***

Ephesians 1:4 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

Just as He chose us [in love] in Him before the foundation of the world for us to be holy and blameless [in love] before Him in love,⁵ having predestined us [in love] ...

We were Chosen In Love.

We will be Holy and Blameless In Love.

We will be Complete In His Presence In His Love.

'LOVE' IS HIS ESSENCE ... THE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH HE LIVES & BREATHES ... IT'S HIS MOTIVATION & THE CONSUMMATION OF ANYTHING GOD DOES!

BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM, WE HAVE A GENUINE SPIRITUAL DESIRE TO BE WITH HIM ... TO BE LIKE HIM ...

WE LOVE HIS HOLINESS, HIS PERFECTION, HIS PRESENCE.

AND THIS BRINGS OUT IN US A LONGING & DESIRE ...

FOR EXAMPLE -

The song - 'THIS IS MY DESIRE'

'Lord I give you my heart ... I give you my soul ...

I live for you alone;

Every breath that I take ... every moment I'm awake ...

Lord have your way in me.' (Reuben Morgan)

THIS IS THE SINCERE CRY OF OUR NEW-BORN SPIRIT ... FOR US TO BE

COMPLETELY HOLY & BLAMELESS ... BODY, SOUL & SPIRIT ...

WE RESPOND TO HIS LOVE ...

SO, WHAT ARE WE CHOSEN FOR?

WE ARE CHOSEN TO BE IN HIS PRESENCE

WE ARE CHOSEN TO BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS

WE ARE CHOSEN TO BE IN HIS LOVE

BUT HERE'S THE PROBLEM

*We sing this song on Sunday and we sincerely mean it ...
And for a moment it's real and our body, soul and spirit can be united,
complete and whole in praise to God ...
But Monday morning we wake up and things start to go wrong ...
Our spirit remains holy ... but the rest of us goes into folly ...*

WE START TO FEEL BAD & PRAY & TRY HARDER TO BECOME THE THING WE LOVE ... (See 'The Holiness Movement' in footnotes)

OR

- **WE JUST GIVE UP & DENY THE THING WE LOVE**

***BUT THE FATHER ASSURES US TODAY ...
HE HAS CHOSEN US TO BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS ...
AND IT WILL COME TO PASS ...***

Jude 1:24 **SLIDE**

*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to **present you faultless** before **the presence** of His glory with exceeding joy.*

HE ALONE WILL DO THIS IN YOU & FOR YOU

Malachi 3:17 Translations ...

And they shall be mine ... when I make up my treasures.

And they shall be to me, says the Lord of hosts, a special possession, on the day that I am about to make my treasure.

IT'S THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOU TO BRING YOU TO THIS PLACE OF COMPLETE HOLINESS

2 Corinthians 3:18

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as **by the Spirit of the Lord.***

Philippians 1:6

*Being confident of this very thing, that **He** who has begun a good work in you **will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ.*

1 John 3:3

And everyone having this hope in Him [that He is able to do it] purifies himself, just as He is pure.

ONE DAY I WILL BE WHOLLY COMPLETE ...

I WILL BE WHO I AM IN CHRIST ... HOLY & BLAMELESS

I WILL BE WHERE I AM IN CHRIST ... BEFORE HIM IN HIS PRESENCE

SUPPLIMENTARY

THE HOLINESS MOVEMENT

A religious movement that arose in the 19th century among [Protestant](#) churches in the United States, characterized by a doctrine of [sanctification](#) centering on a post conversion experience.

These people had **a rule of strict codes of dress and behaviour, a life of separation from worldly values** and adherence to practical holiness.

Holiness groups believe **the moral aspects of the law of God are pertinent for today**, and so expect their adherents to **obey behavioural rules**—for example, many groups have statements prohibiting the consumption of alcohol, participation in any form of gambling, and entertainments such as dancing and theatre-going.