

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 5 (#912185)
WEEK 1 (912341)
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P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare
TITLE: Program 5 – God Chose You To Be Holy And Blameless**

FRIDAY

OPEN

Hey you! I know it’s not polite to say hey you, but anyway, hey you. Stop right where you are. Do you know that God loves you? Do you know that He has a wonderful plan for your life? Do you know that God wants to take you and He wants to adopt you as His child? He wants to be your Father. He has a wonderful purpose for your life, and you’re going to learn it today as you hear God’s precepts for life.

PART ONE

Hey you! Momma told me never say hey you. But I’m saying it in fun, and I’m saying it in love. Hey you, Beloved friend, hey you, precious student. Come and let’s study God’s awesome Word together. Let’s go back to the book of Ephesians where we are making great progress, in Ephesians

chapter 1 and we have come those awesome awesome doctrines; the doctrine of election, the doctrine of predestination, the doctrine of redemption. These are the ones that we are looking at. They’re doctrines that will enable us to stand to not be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine and cunning craftiness of men by which they lie in wait to deceive. So let’s see what God says about you, because I want you to know, no matter where you’ve been, no matter what you’ve done, no matter what has been done to you, God has been there the whole time and you may, but I don’t like that; because if God was there then He should have stopped it. Well that’s according to your vision. That’s according to your limited finite human pea brain and I don’t mean that in a derogatory way, but I mean it in comparison to God’s omniscience, to God’s all-knowingness, to God’s sovereignty, to God’s plan that He has. God has a plan. This universe is here according to His plan. You are here at this time in this place and in this century and in this year in this month in this day because God has a plan. God is not a willy nilly God that decides what’s going to happen just as things go along or changes and alters His plan because we change and we alter. Oh no, Oh no. He sets it in His sovereignty. And Ephesians, chapter 1 opens with this eulogy of praise that begins in verse 3, ends in verse 14 and then goes into this prayer that takes up the whole rest of the chapter. Basically Ephesians chapter 1 from verse 3 on is just two sentences, two sentences in where Paul is so full that everything gushes forward. And he’s says in chapter 1 in verse 3, **“Blessed be the God...,”** now listen, **“...and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us....”** It’s already happened. **“...With every spiritual blessing in...heavenly places....”** And then verse 4 says, **“Just as He...,”** God, **“...chose us in Him...,”** in Christ, **“...before the foundation of the world, that we [should] be holy and blameless....”** (Ephesians 1:3-4a) And I’m going to stop there and I want to go back to that word, **“chosen.”** Now remember that word, **“chosen”** means to pick out. It means to choose something out, so that the chooser has a relationship with the chosen. And so

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what he’s saying is He chose us in Christ **“...before the foundation of the world....” (Ephesians 1:4a)** Let me give this to you in picture form because it’s so important for you to get this in your mind. Now what I want you to do is I want you to draw it on a piece of paper, if you can and draw a straight line across that piece of paper. My line’s a little wiggly, but draw that straight line. That line has a beginning. All right, and right at that beginning put a half moon where it’s like a “C”, but it’s facing the line. All right, that represents the beginning of the world. That represents creation. And what God is saying is this, that God, and I use a triangle, so put a triangle before that half moon, before that “C”, the back of that “C”, and put a triangle up there to represent God. I use a triangle to represent God the Father, and God the Spirit, and God the Son. And you will see that reference to all three of them and their work in a number of different scriptures. If you have just one debate, or one question about it, just go to the end of Matthew 28 and read the last verse. All right, so this represents God. And what he’s saying here, and this is so important to you and it’s going to get so practical in the programs to come. I’m having to build precept upon precept. These are His precepts for life because through His precepts we get understanding. And the psalmist says, **“... [And] I hate every false way.” (Psalm 119:104b)** And what’s happening is we’re studying God’s Word. We’re discovering truth for our self, so that you can say with the psalmist in 119 and verse 102, **“I have not [gone off] from Your [commandments], for You Yourself have taught me.” (Psalm 119:102)** [Well God Himself chose you, so I’m going to put a little stick figure underneath that triangle, before the creation of the world.] (Paraphrase, Ephesians 1:4a) So God chose you. But where did He choose you? Well He chose you in Christ Jesus, so I’m going to put a cross right over the “you,” the stick figure. And that cross represents Jesus Christ. So what God is saying is before He ever spoke and brought the world into existence, and that’s the way He did it, and Hebrews 11 will tell you that. So keep reading and it says [by the word of God, the world was formed].

(Paraphrased, Hebrews 11:3a) In other words, God said and it was so, just like Genesis 1 says. All right, so before God ever spoke this is what He did. God chose you in Christ before the foundation of the world. That is how significant you are. He chose you, now, because what He wants to do is He wants to present you... It says in order that you, that you might **“...be holy and blameless before Him....” (Ephesians 1:4b)** So let’s go to the end of the line, which we’re going to call the end of the world, all right. And then we’re going to put a throne up here at the end of the line, at the end of the world, at the other side of the page. And what we put the throne up there, we’re going to put the triangle on the throne for Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, although the Father’s there, the Son is seated at His right hand. And then we’re going to put you in a stick figure before “Him.” And this is what we’re saying is that God chose you in Him. Go back to **“...before the foundation of the world, that [you] would be holy and blameless before Him....” (1:4b)** Now that ought to really really strike an awesome cord in your heart. Because what God is saying to you, He says, My goal for you is that you would be holy. When I stop you and say, hey you, God loves you, has a wonderful plan for you life. The wonderful plan is that you would be holy. You say there’s no way lady I could ever be holy. There’s no way I could ever be holy. You don’t know what my past was like. You don’t know what’s going on in my mind. You don’t know the tension. You know the hard time I have staying away from that stuff on the Internet. You don’t know what a hard time I have keeping my mind in control. Listen, I live in a body of flesh too. But I can tell you that more and more and more that as you come to know Him, more and more and more as you grow into His likeness, you’re going to find that you are going to have greater victory. Not that you’ll ever be free from temptation until you see Him. But He is in the process of sanctifying you. He is in the process of making you like Christ. He is in the process of working in your life in such a way, Precious One, that when you stand before Him you’re going to be holy; you’re going to be

blameless. Why? Well the sentence goes on, “...in love” He predestined you. He predestined me. **“He predestined us to adoption as sons...according to the kind intention of His will.” (Ephesians 1:4-5)** God loves you and He has a wonderful plan for your life. I mean when God gave that sentence to Bill Bright who had the gift of evangelism and who wanted to reach the world and wanted them to know. He knew that he couldn’t start out with you’re a sinner, so he started off with the fact that God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. But there’s something that’s keeping you from God. And the thing that’s keeping you from God is your sin. So Ephesians takes care of that. Let’s look at what he says in Ephesians chapter 1. He says in Ephesians chapter 1, **“He predestined us...,”** verse 5, **“...to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace...,”** and we’ll look at that later, **“...which He [freely] freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him...,”** in Jesus Christ **“...we have redemption through His blood, [the forgiveness of our trespasses] the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.” (Ephesians 1:5-7)** So you’re saying to me, hey lady, I’m not what you think I am. Hey lady, I have battles. Me, holy? Me, blameless? Forget it. No, I won’t forget it because I want to grab you right by the collar and say, no, it’s not according to the Word of God. We don’t forget it. We learn this truth. We learn what it means and we move on. And that’s what we’re going to do. Well, let’s go back because there’s another verse that I want us to see about “chosen.” We looked at John 15:16 in our last program. We looked at 1 Peter, chapter 1, verses 1 and 2. And now we’re going to go to 1 Corinthians, chapter 1, verses 26 through 30. 1 Corinthians, chapter 1, verses 26 through 30, because what I want to do is I want to hush your mouth about any objection that God would love you and have a wonderful plan for your life. But I’m going to do that right after this important announcement.

PART TWO

Hey you, hey you, my friend, welcome back. Now let's look at another scripture. Remember we're looking at the word, "chosen" or the word "choose". All right, when we look at that I want us to see some different places where it's used in the New Testament so scripture can interpret scripture. Because when you have trouble believing something or understanding something, what you need to do is you find out where that word is "chosen." And see you would take the word "choose" and you would take the word "elect". Now we're not going to look at the word, "elect" because it's not used in Corinthians. But you would take those words and you would look up every place where it's used. Then what you would do is you would see what each place teaches you and the way that word is used. And then you develop your doctrine, your teaching, your belief from what it says. You don't say, well, I don't understand this or I don't understand that. Instead what it is it's faith and faith simply bows the knee. I mean you bow the knee and you say to God, You are the one in which is all wisdom. I am limited in my understanding and so I'm bowing the knee to You and I'm saying, in faith I'm going to take You at Your word, even though I don't totally understand it. I know that it is Your job to bring me into that understanding to the depth that you want me to have it. So 1 Corinthians chapter 1, verse 26. He says, "**For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise....**" (1 Corinthians, 1:26-27a) Now I just want to stop for a minute and I want you to know that there are some people that say God chooses you on the basis of His foreknowledge of what you are going to choose. So in other words, God is not the sovereign in the choosing, you are and God responds to you. That is not biblical. And the Bible doesn't teach that anywhere. Man teaches it and man teaches it because he doesn't

understand God or because he’s not accepting the Word of God at face value. So they say okay, God chooses because in His foreknowledge He knows what you’re going to do. That’s not true. God is the initiator. God is the Savior. God is the One who is the Creator and the sustainer. He’s the beginning and He’s the end. He’s the Alpha and He’s the Omega. So he says, “...God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen....” (1 Corinthians 1:27-28a) You say, hey lady, there’s hope for me. I’m weak, I’m despised, I am not noble. There ain’t nothing about me to recommend me to God. Well brother, I understand. Move over, I’ll sit there with you and I’ll say the same thing. But it does not matter who you are; this is according to the kind intention of His will, which He, God purposed in Jesus Christ. It’s God’s plan, it ain’t yours. And so you need to know that and you need to understand that. Now it tells you that He “...has chosen the things [which] are not...,” verse 28, “...so that He may nullify....” Nullify means wipe out. It means you know, just cross out. It means erase. “...So that He might nullify the things that are,” now listen very carefully, “so that no man may boast before God.” (1 Corinthians 1:28-29) In other words, look, if you have something to do with your salvation, if you decide to choose God, then you can say, okay, I decided to choose God and I want to put this in your mind, in your mind’s eye. You’re saying, okay, I decided to choose God. Okay, we’ll use me as an illustration, okay. So here I am in 1963 – that makes me an old lady, doesn’t it? In 1963 I received Jesus Christ as my Savior. Okay, so I may say, all right, I decided at that point that I’m going to become a child of God. I decided that I don’t want to live a life of sin and independence from God any more. I decided that this is what I’m going to do. I’m going to become a Christian. I’m going to become a child of God. Well you can think that and you can believe that and you can be taught that, but it’s wrong. And it’s

wrong because Ephesians 1 says that “...**He chose** [you in Christ] **before the foundation of the world....**” (Ephesians 1:4a) Before there was ever planet earth God knew that you would be a sinner, God knew that I would be a sinner, that we would be born, dead in our trespasses and sins because we are of the seed of Adam and Eve, because our genealogy could be traced back to the first man and the first woman that are living here in the Garden of Eden. But it’s because of them. It says, “... [By] **one man....**,” Adam, “...**sin entered into the world, and death, [by] sin, [in that] death spread to all men, because all men [have] sinned.**” (Romans 5:12) And God says, okay sinner, this is what I’m going to do. I am going to predestine you, I’m going to mark you out beforehand to become My child and I am going to redeem you from your trespasses, from your sins by the precious blood of My Son the Lord Jesus Christ, who hung on a cross and died about the year 29 A.D. And that’s what I’m going to do. I’m going to take Jesus who knows no sin and I’m going to take all of your sins and all the sins of mankind and I’m going to place your sins and the sins of mankind on Jesus Christ and I am going to use his death, which I planned before the foundation of the world when I chose you, I’m going to use His death to redeem you from the slave market of sin. You say, how does that happen? Well I pray that you’re hooked on discovering truth for yourself, of knowing what the Word of God has to say to you, Beloved. And what I want you to see is this, it doesn’t matter who you are God didn’t choose you because you were rich, because you were noble, because you were so smart, because you were so wise. God chose the base things and the foolish things and the things that are despised and the things that are nothing so that no man, no flesh can boast in His presence. So if you had something to do and you were the one that decided hey, God, I think I’ll follow You. You lucky God. I used to think before I got saved, O God, You’re so lucky to have me on Your team, this sweet young thing, with all these old ladies in this church. You’re so lucky to have me. And then God showed me my sin and I wondered how

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God could ever want me, how He could ever accept this woman who had sinned so greatly, this woman who was responsible for the suicide of her husband, this woman that was not the mother that she should have been, this woman that went from man to man sleeping with one man after another, how could God possibly want me? And then when I came to know Him, He opened the eyes of my understanding and I understood this: that I was “chosen” in Christ before the foundation of the world, that I should be holy and blameless. It’s the same thing for you Precious One.