

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –  
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE  
PROGRAM 4 (#912184)  
WEEK 1 (912341)  
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –  
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

**TITLE: Program 4 – We Were Chosen By God Before The Foundation Of The Earth**

**THURSDAY**

**OPEN**

When you hear words like “election,” and “predestination,” and “redemption” do you think O, my goodness, don’t teach me stuff like that? Teach me something that’s practical for my life. O Beloved, you just don’t know how practical doctrine is. As a matter of fact, to paraphrase Ephesians, chapter 4, “If you don’t know doctrine as a Christian, it’s like shooting craps with the devil and the dice are loaded against you.”

**PART ONE**

George Barna, the man that’s famous for doing surveys of Christians and letting us know what’s going on in the Christian community, did a very interesting survey. When he surveyed the church he found out that most of the people do not get their teaching from the church and they don’t get it

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from radio. Rather they get it from television. Can you imagine? This is where they go so that they can learn about God. And you know that's fine if you're going through the Scriptures and if you're covering things that are good solid teaching and not just things that have to do with getting out of your troubles or getting out of your problems. What's the problem? If all we do is get our doctrine from television I would suggest you go back to the church. And I would suggest that what you do is that you find a church, a church that is teaching the Word of God and that you sit in that church and you absorb truth as they open the Book and teach you precept upon precept. And I'm talking about teaching you God's standards. I'm talking about teaching you God's Word. And this is what this program is all about. So my friend, once again today, I invite you to sit down with me. I invite you to open the Word of God and together one on one we'll look at God's Book; we'll look at God's Word so that you and I can discover His precepts for life. Well, as you know, we're studying this awesome awesome book of Ephesians, an incredible book and a book that I'm not going to talk to you about the theme of it yet, because I want you to become more acquainted with this book. I want you to discover what it says for yourself because that's what Precepts for Life is all about, you discovering truth for yourself. This is why we have a free study guide for you to download. And you want to go to "[preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com)" and you can download that study guide. Now Ephesians chapter 1, we know that it is an epistle, that is written by Paul, who is an apostle by the will of God. We know that he is writing to the saints that are at Ephesus. And we know from verse 3 that he says, **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in...heavenly places...."** (Ephesians 1:3) And then we come to that word, a word that scares many many people, and yet once you understand it and once you know what God has to say about it you're not going to be frightened by that word. It's the word, "chose." You say, well I think that's a Presbyterian doctrine. Or isn't that something that

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Calvin talked about? Dear one, Beloved, it's a word that God uses and you and I need to understand that God has selected every word. Yes, He used Paul to write epistles. Yes, He used Peter to write epistles. And yes, He used Moses to write the first five books of the Bible. But God is the ultimate author and God breathed His words through holy men who were being moved by the Holy Spirit so that what they wrote was not of their own interpretation, not of their own devising, as 2 Peter tells us. But they spoke, they wrote as they were moved by the very Spirit of God. So what he tells us this marvelous, magnificent truth and I'm going to give it to you today and then in the next program I'm going to take it and show you the awesome awesome incredible unbelievable application of it that will make you so secure, and that will blow your mind and so in verse 4 it says, **"Just as He..."**, and it's speaking about God who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **"Just as He chose us...."** (Ephesians 1:4a) Now if you're marking the references to the recipients, remember I told you just avoid the "we's" and "us's" for right now. And because it's the author and it's the recipients. If you want to color it both colors fine, but I just want you to get the point. **"Just as He..."**, God **"...chose us in Him..."**, in whom? In Jesus Christ. So, **"in Him"** is a word that we are marking, and I told you that I put a red cloud around that phrase, every **"in Him"** every **"in Christ"**. **"Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that..."**, it's a purpose clause, **"...that we [should] be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us...."** (Ephesians 1:4) Oh there's that other word I mentioned at the opening of the program. **"He predestined us...."** You say, that sounds awfully Presbyterian to me. It's not Presbyterian. It's biblical. **"[Just as] He predestined us 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, which He..."**, God, **"...freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."** (Ephesians 1:5-6) Now who's the **"in the Beloved"**? It's the **"in Him."** It's in Jesus, so you put another cloud around it. It says, **"In Him..."**

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in Christ, “...we have redemption...,” there’s that other word that I mentioned in the opening of the program, “...we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished [upon] us....” (Ephesians 1:7-8a) Now it is one continuous sentence from verse 3, all the way through verse 14, but I’m going to stop there. And I want us to look at these three words. I want us to look at the doctrine, at the teaching of these words. Why did God choose these words? Why did He say chose? Why did He say predestined? Why did He say redemption? Well we want to look at those words. We want to see what they mean because it’s doctrine. It’s teaching. And remember what I told you at the opening, that Ephesians says that we are to grow, that we are to understand doctrine, that we’re not to be children tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine. So we don’t know what we believe and you believe this and you believe that and you’re this and you’re that and I am so confused I don’t know what I believe. We don’t want you to be like that. And the whole purpose of this program is to keep you from being like that. The whole purpose of this program is to help you to discover truth for yourself. This Book is truth. It is absolute, pure, unadulterated truth, because it is the Word of God. So if God chose these words, why did He choose them? Well the Bible, the New Testament is written in the koine Greek, k-o-i-n-e. And the koine Greek, the word “koine” means the common Greek. It was the common trade language of the time when the New Testament was written. It was the common language in the days of Jesus Christ. Now living in Jerusalem and living in the Galilee and both of those places, living in the land of Israel what Jesus did was He spoke Hebrew and He spoke Aramaic. Those were the languages of the land, and yet they were under Roman rule, and so the Romans spoke Greek. I mean they spoke Latin, but they spoke Greek. The Greek language really was initiated and spread around the world through the conquests of Alexander the Great. And when the Romans came to power they were so enthralled; I mean absolutely enthralled with the

Greek lifestyle that they imitated their architecture, that they named their gods in accordance with the Greek gods. And on top of that they spoke the common Greek language. It was the trade language of the day. So he uses this word in verse 4: **“Just as He chose us in Him....” (Ephesians 1:4a)** Now the Greek words for all of this is in the study guide. So if you want the Greek word you can go to the study guide and you can get it. I’m not going to try and pronounce it. I’m not going to give it to you now because I don’t want to lose you in the process. But the word “chosen” means to pick out. It means to go over here and to choose a person, so I choose this person, but I choose this person because there is going to be a relationship between the chooser and the chosen. I don’t just choose to throw it away. I don’t just choose just because I’m fickle or something like that. Rather, it is a choosing with a purpose. It is a choosing for the sense of being able to have a relationship with the chosen. So what did you just read? You just read that God chose us. God chose Paul. God chose the Ephesians. And you know what? God chose you. If you are a child of God you can know that the reason that you are a child of God is not because you chose Him, but because He chose you. Now let’s look at that. I want us to go to John chapter 15, verse 16. It’s a marvelous marvelous verse and it’s one that I think you ought to memorize. So that the Holy Spirit can bring it to your remembrance, Precious One, and just use it to comfort you and to strengthen you, and to show you how very special you are. In John chapter 15, and this is that wonderful chapter on the vine and the branches. And this is a chapter that is delivered in the upper room, chapter 13, 14, 15 and 16 we call the Upper Room Discourse. And you have to understand the setting. Jesus has withdrawn from the world. He’s not ministering to the populace any more. He has around Him His disciples, the twelve that He chose as His apostles. And so now He is talking with them. He is preparing them for what is to come. And in John chapter 16 in verse 33, at the end of this discourse, He says, **“These things I have spoken to you....” (John 16:33a)** This is family

talk. This is not talk for the world. This is not teaching from the world. This is family talk. He says, **“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world [you’re going to] have tribulation, but [be of good] courage; I’ve overcome the world.” (John 16:33)** Now when He says **“These things I have spoken to you...,”** to whom is He speaking? He’s speaking to those that He’s chosen. We’ll talk about it right after the break.

## **PART TWO**

Welcome back my friend. And I’m saying my friend because you are my friend, because you and I are sharing in common a love, a quest, a quest to know God, a quest to be everything that we should be. Well Jesus’ friends had left all and they had followed Him. And this is what He says, **“No longer do I call you slaves, for a slave does not know what his master is doing...,”** I’m in John 15, verse 15. He says, **“...but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”** And this is what I have the wonderful privilege of doing with you every program, and that is sitting and using my spiritual gift of teaching to minister to you so that you and I can grow together. Well then He turns to them, and this is what He says, He says, [“You know, you didn’t choose Me. It wasn’t you that chose Me. I chose you. I’m the one that chose you. And I’m the one that ordained that you should go and that you should bear fruit and that your fruit should remain. In other words, I have a plan for your life and that plan is that your plan, I chose you because I’ve got a purpose for you. And My purpose for you, Precious One, is that you have a life that is purposeful, that you have a life that is fruitful, that you have a life that is not meaningless, but has meaning and has substance and has consequences. I chose you and I, God ordained you man, human being, woman, man, child, teenager, I ordained you that you should go and that you

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should bear fruit and that your fruit should remain and that whatever you ask of Me in My name I will do it.”] (Paraphrase, John 15:16) Now when you stop and think about the word chosen, don’t stop and think about all right, who did God not chose, because He doesn’t deal with chosen in that way. He deals with chosen and relationship to those that He has picked out, those that He has chosen out of a mass of mankind and brought to Himself for a special purpose. One of the things that you see in Ephesians, chapter 1 is you see that phrase, “according to His purpose, according to the kind intention of His will.” (1:5) And if you will go through in chapter 1 and you will underline every “according to,” you’re going to be blown out of the water. You’re going to see that God has a purpose for your life and He chose you, He has a plan, a wonderful plan for your life. Bill and Vonnnette are dear friends of ours. And of course Bill is with the Lord, but one of the things that they wanted people to know is that God loves you and He has a wonderful plan for your life. He chose you. Well another place that “chosen” is used is in 1 Peter chapter 1. So that’s where I want you to go. Go to 1 Peter chapter 1. Now one of the things that is so good is when you find a word that is a very important word, that is a doctrinal word like “chosen” or like “predestined,” or like “redeemed” to mark that word in a specific color combination in your Bible so that anytime you open the Bible you can say, hey, it talks about being redeemed there. Now “chosen” is used some. It’s not used a whole lot, but it’s such an important word. And so when we go to 1 Peter chapter 1, I want you to see what he says as he opens the letter.

**“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens....” (1 Peter 1:1a)** In other words, you’re not at home; it’s not your home country.

**“...Scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen.” (1 Peter 1:1b)** Here are people that, in a sense, are not living in their own country. They don’t have that heritage. They don’t have that national connection, but it does not matter because they are chosen, they are chosen. They have a connection to heaven. Listen, you may

be displaced because of some tragedy, some calamity, some war, some earthquake, some hurricane, some flood. You may be displaced, but I want to tell you something, if you are a child of God you are chosen by God and you have never been displaced from Him. He is right where you are. And this is what He says: “...who are chosen...,” now listen carefully, “**according to the foreknowledge of God, the Father....**” (1 Peter 1:1c-2a) You are “chosen,” and this is very important, “**according to the foreknowledge of God....**” (1 Peter 1:2a) Now the “foreknowledge of God” this word’s not in your study guide; it is “prognosis”. So “pro” means before and “gnosis” means know; He knew you before. And He operates not on the basis of what you’re going to do, because then you would be in control, but He operates on the basis of who He is. He is the sovereign ruler of all the universe, Precious One. And this is what it says, you “**...are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father....**” (1 Peter 1:1c-2a) Now let’s stop. When were you chosen “**...before the foundation of the world....**” (Ephesians 1:4b) Now I want to tell you something that’s absolutely staggering. There is no way that intellectually you can comprehend that. That is a faith thing. That is taking God at His word, saying, okay God, this is Your Book; this is what You said, whether I can understand it, whether I can figure it out or not I’m going to believe it. And what God has just told you, in 1 Peter, that you “**...are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God....**” (1:1c-2a) the pre-knowing of God, not what you were going to do, because you didn’t even exist before the foundation of the world except in the mind and heart of God. And I want to tell you something: that has tremendous, tremendous practical application to your life. You are precious to God. There is no way that you would be listening to this program, there is no way that you would stop on this station and listen if God were not drawing you to Himself, because He wants you to know Him, to belong to Him. So your precept for life today is this: if you are a child of God, you have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places, not



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because you decided to follow God, but it's because God drew you to Himself. It's because before the foundation of the world, before God ever spoke and brought the world into existence, before He ever called the stars and the sun and the moon and created the animals and created man in His image, God knew you. God knew when you would be born. God is omniscient, He's all-knowing. And He had a plan. And according to His foreknowledge what He did was He reached down and He chose you before you were ever formed in your mother's womb. He chose you for Himself. He chose you to be part of His family. He chose you because He wants to pour out His love upon you. He chose you because He wants to adopt you as His child. He wants you to be His forever. He wants you to live with Him in heaven. And so when life gets rough and life gets tough, Beloved, this is what you need to remember, I'm chosen of God. You may not like me. You may despise me. You may mock me. You my own flesh and blood may turn around and lash out at me, but I want you to know I'm chosen by God. I'm accepted in the Beloved. I belong to Him. He's adopted me as His child. He has redeemed me with His blood and He has a plan for my life and He chose me knowing everything about me, then He's never ever going to let me go. That's your precept for life.