

## **PRAISE GOD, HE CHOSE US!**

(Ephesians 1:4)

Praising God for the glory of His saving work is the theme of Paul's doxology in Ephesians 1: 3-14. In verses 4-6, we should praise God because the Father has chosen us in Christ and adopted us to be His children. In verses 7-12, we should praise God because the Son, our Lord Jesus, has redeemed us with His blood and provided complete forgiveness for our sins. In verses 13-14, we should praise God because the Holy Spirit has sealed us and guaranteed our eternal inheritance in heaven. As we turn to Ephesians 1:4, let's consider four essential truths about the choosing and electing work of God the Father.

**1. God \_\_\_\_\_ chose whom He saves.**

Paul clearly states that it is God the Father who makes the ultimate determining choice concerning our salvation (Eph. 1:4). The verb "choose" means to pick out or select for oneself. The idea is that God the Father chose us for Himself. God's choice of whom He saves is not an impersonal or random choice. We who are in Christ are personally chosen for God's own glory. This verb "choose" also indicates the sovereign prerogative of God in selecting particular people out of the many (Deut. 7:6-8). All throughout redemptive history, God has always presented Himself as the God who sovereignly chooses whom He saves (John 15:16,19; 1 Cor. 1:26-31). The firm, objective and immovable foundation of our being a Christian is that God the Father personally and sovereignly chose us to be saved in Christ.

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**2. God \_\_\_\_\_ chose whom He saves.**

The natural sinfulness of the recipients of God's redemptive blessing magnifies the gracious nature of God's saving choice (Eph. 1:4). Prior to our salvation, we were spiritually dead in our sins, enslaved to the world, captive to Satan, children of disobedience and objects of God's wrath (Eph. 2:1-4; 4:17-19). It would be perfectly just for God to punish all sinners and consign us all to hell (2 Pet. 2:4). But praise be to God, He chose to extend His grace and mercy to certain undeserving sinners (Rom. 9:15-16). Moreover, God chose believers in connection with the redemption accomplished by our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. There is no electing grace apart from Christ's redeeming work (2 Thess. 2:13-14).

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**3. God \_\_\_\_\_ chose whom He saves.**

Paul further explains that our salvation began even before the creation of the world (Eph. 1:4). God's saving choice was decreed in eternity past as God the Father's plan to choose a redeemed people for Himself as love gift to His Son, our Lord Jesus (2 Tim. 1:9; John 17:24).

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**4. God \_\_\_\_\_ chose whom He saves.**

The purpose of God's election of believers is our holiness and blamelessness (Eph. 1:4). Paul emphasizes the truth that the purpose why God has chosen us to be saved is to make us positionally holy upon our conversion, practically and progressively holy throughout our Christian life and perfectly holy for all eternity (Eph. 5:25-27; Rom. 8:33).

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