

1. Read Ephesians 1:4-12 and count the instances of "He chose," "predestined," "the good pleasure of His will," "according to His good pleasure," "He purposed in Himself," "according to the purpose of Him" and "according to the counsel of His will."

v. 3 -
v. 4 -
v. 5 -
v. 7 -
v. 9 -
v. 11 -
v. 13, 14 -

2. What point do you think the apostle Paul (by the direction of the Holy Spirit) is trying to make?

3. Do you think it is important to study God's predestination (choosing) and why?

4. Look up the following passages and answer each question:

Why did God choose you?

- o John 15:16 -
- o Ephesians 2:10 -
- o 1 Peter 1:2 -
- o James 1:18 -
- o 1 Thessalonians 2:12 -

What should characterize God's elect?

- o Titus 1:1, 2 -
- o Colossians 3:12 -

If God has chosen you for salvation what should be your response?

5. Are any of the biblical passages on predestination directed toward unbelievers?

Should unbelievers be concerned about God's election?

Is it our job to find out who God has predestined (Matt. 28:19, 20)?

6. Paul lays out a long list of the blessings God has lavished upon us; list them.

7. The book of Ephesians is full of the blessings of God; what do the blessings of God have to do with election or salvation?

8. Verse 10 contains the key phrase of the Book of Ephesians; what is it?

9. What is the significance of this phrase as it relates to the rest Ephesians?

10. In Colossians 1 Paul tells us that God had an overarching purpose in providing salvation through Jesus Christ; what was that purpose (Col. 1:15-20)?

11. What does Ephesians 1:12 say about your salvation?

12. If salvation is all of God (even the choosing), who gets the glory?

Other passages about God's election: Malachi 1:2; John 6:37, 39, 44-45; Romans 9; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:10; and many, many more.

Monday (v. 3-9) – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (v. 3). This is the key verse in understanding the whole Book of Ephesians. Have you ever thought about just how blessed you are in Christ? This week we are going to look at some of the blessings of being “in Christ.” We are going to see some of the amazing ways God has blessed His children. More importantly, we are going to see the impact these blessings should have on your life.

Tuesday (v. 3-9) – Your first thought may be, Have I really been blessed with every spiritual blessing? And what does it mean to be “blessed in the heavenly places”? Let’s look at some of the ways God has blessed you: 1) He chose you (v. 4); 2) He gave you imputed righteousness (“holy”); 3) He wiped away your guilt (“without blame”); 4) He adopted you (v. 5), out of all the people in the world God picked *you* to be His child; 5) He made you accepted (v. 6), no longer alone or an outcast; 6) He redeemed you (v. 7); 7) He forgave your sins (v. 7); 8) He gave you the riches of His grace (v. 7); 9) He gave you wisdom (v. 8); 10) He gave you “prudence” or understanding; 11) He made His will known to you (v. 9). God was not finished there; the list continues tomorrow.

Wednesday (v. 10-14) – How richly has God blessed you? 12) He has blessed you by providing the Church (v. 10); 13) He has given you an eternal inheritance (v. 11); 14) He gave your life purpose (v. 12); 15) He saved you from judgment both now and for eternity (v. 13); 16) He gave you the Holy Spirit (v. 13); 17) He gave you God’s seal, or mark of ownership, and guarantee it (v. 14); 18) you have His promise of a blessed future with God (Is. 65:17, 18a; Rev. 21:1-3). If that is not enough, there’s more...

Thursday (v. 15,16) – One of the great blessings of God is 19) the fellowship and care of believers. God has provided for you (blessed you with) other Christians who love you and will pray for you. Most of us know the joy and comfort it is to know that other Christians are praying for you when times are hard, when you are sick or when you are struggling with something. It is such a blessing to know that other believers love you and are thinking about you, even more than that they are lifting your name and your burdens up before Almighty God Who has promised to hear our requests. Commit to be a vessel of God’s blessing this week; pray for one another. Pick one person from Blair Ridge Baptist Church, pray for them every day and then *tell them about!* Take this wonderful opportunity from God to be an encouragement to a Brother or Sister today.

Friday (v. 17-19) – Blessing 20 (at least) from this passage: God is yours now (v. 18). Notice how Paul prays for the Ephesians: he prays they would receive “the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.” What does he mean by that? He wants them to *know* God more deeply. He prays their understanding would be enlightened, that they would know the hope of His calling, that they would know the riches of the glory of His inheritance and that they would know the greatness of His power! The life God wants for you today is a life lived by the power of God in the Spirit of God. Eternal life begins the day you accept Jesus Christ as Savior. God never meant you to be saved and then slug it out until Heaven; He wants you to *know Him today*. You can have a real, vital and growing relationship with the Creator of the universe. Now *that* is a blessing!

Saturday (v.19-23) – Blessing 21: You have the power of God at your disposal. Paul is talking about the resurrection power of Jesus Christ; the very power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is working in your life today, the power by which God raised Jesus and ascended Him to heaven is yours. God has given you the power of the risen, ascended and exalted Christ. Blessing 22: Jesus Christ now makes intercession for you (v. 20). Notice something significant here: God raised and exalted Jesus Christ and placed Him over all things (Col. 1). Then notice what Paul says in verse 22: God gave Jesus to the Church! Wow! Jesus Christ is mine! Join us tomorrow as we see what these things mean for your life.