



Ephesians 1:4

## The Chosen

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“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”

Ephesians 1:4 NIV84

### We are Chosen

1. The term we translate **chosen** come from the Greek term **ἐκλέγω**. **ἐκλέγω** is a compound word, comprised of the terms **ἐκ** and **λέγω**.

- **ἐκ** means "out of"
- **λέγω** means "speak" or "say"
- **ἐκλέγω** therefore can be translated "call out".

2. The significance of this "chosen" status in which we bear is more clearly seen in light of the terms Paul chose to use.

3. There are a few different words in which Paul could have used to describe our being "chosen". He chose to use the term **λέγω**.

4. The significance of **λέγω** is more easily seen when contrasted with **λαλέω**, meaning "to talk at random."

- Strong's Enhanced Lexicon informs us, "**λαλέω** - To talk at random, as contrasted with **λέγω** which involves the intellectual part of man, his reason. **λαλέω** is used especially of children with the meaning of to talk much.
- **λέγω** is a call that has thought behind it. It's not casual or nonchalant, there are specifics in this "calling out."
- **λέγω** is also contrasted with **λαλέω** in terms of it being the chosen word to express the preaching and teaching of Jesus. Jesus did not **λαλέω** (talk) in His preaching, but **λέγω** (spoke with intention and intellect) in His preaching.
- This idea cast with **λέγω** is that we are "chosen," with intention and purpose, it is not a generic or accidental thing.

## We are Chosen *in Him*

1. As discussed in our study of *The Blessing*, Paul opens his letter to the Ephesian church by reminding them of their identity in Christ. Those who are in-dwelt by the Holy Spirit, having believed in Jesus' name, are children to the Father and share in the inheritance of the Only Begotten - Jesus the Son of God.
2. Paul uses the preposition "ἐν" to help us understand our position in Jesus.
  - "ἐν" - Translated "in" and used with a few objects of the preposition - Jesus, Christ, Him, and the One He loves.
  - Paul uses the position "in" 8 times in the first 23 verses of his letter. It should be noted that Paul will continue to use this "in Christ" position throughout his letter to reemphasize our identity.

## Chosen *Before the Creation of the World*

1. One of my favorite statements by Paul. Think about it.... Before the foundation of the world, YOU were chosen!
2. Reminiscent of Jeremiah's calling, God has destined us for His Glory!
  - Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

## Chosen to be *Holy*

1. The term we translate holy is the Greek word **ἅγιος**.
  - Means consecrated, set apart, holy, sanctified
  - Also carries the idea of "Wow!" Spiros Zodhiates says of this term, "Any matter of Religious Awe."
  - Though the following verses do not contain the term **ἅγιος**, the reactions are a direct result of both Jesus and Peter / John being "set apart" and "consecrated" to God.
    - "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were **astonished** and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13 NIV84
    - "Everyone who heard him was **amazed** at his understanding and his answers." Luke 2:47 NIV84
2. God chose us to stand out in our consecration to Him.

## Chosen to be *Blameless in His Sight*

1. Blameless, **ἄμωμος**, means just what it means in English: spotless, without blemish, perfect.
2. This **perfection** is **in His sight** because of our position in Christ. His sight is **Truth**, not **Facts**.
  - Truth - God's perspective

- Facts - Perspective of Satan, the world, or any other viewpoint than God's viewpoint.
3. Truth - In Christ, we are perfect and Jesus' blood covers our sin perpetually as we *live rightly in Christ*.
  4. Those who live in Rebellion, in moral anarchy, exclude themselves from *in Christ* and are no longer Blameless.
  5. God sees those in Christ the same way He sees Christ Himself.
  6. Satan sees children of God (those in Christ) the same way he sees Christ Himself.