

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

EPHESIANS 1:4-6

God chose you. God chose you before you were born. God chose you before your parents met. God chose you before he sent his Son to the earth to erase the damage humanity had caused between him and his creation. God chose you before the beginning of time. Paul's language in Ephesians simply functions to give us assurance of God's purposes for us. God's choice of us was a free decision. It was not dependent on temporal circumstances but rooted in the depths of his nature. "To say that election in Christ took place before the foundation of the world is to underline that it was provoked not by historical contingency or human merit, but solely by God's sovereign grace."³ God's grace in choosing you was not to make life on earth easier; his intent was to make you holy so that the severed relationship with creation could be restored. God's nature seen through his offer of grace is to bring us back to him. God chose us for this identity - this beautiful, God-glorifying, growth-through-grace identity.

This identity of a holy chosen child was not for the saints, the elite, or those who have time on their hands, but for all. This chosen identity was for the single mom working two jobs to make ends meet. This holiness call is for the couple that cannot conceive a child. This identity is for the child growing up in an orphanage. This identity was chosen by God before the beginning of time for all. God loved you so much that he chose you before time began, and he chose you for a purpose.

This chosen identity should motivate us to not let holiness become a secondary goal. Your holiness is God's supreme purpose for your life. And if it is God's supreme purpose then it should become our supreme purpose. It should not take a back seat to our identities in marriage, parenthood, careers, or church life. Our pursuit of holiness should lead us to all of those other identities. We should pursue holiness because God chose that identity for us.

Because God chose you, you can be holy. So, who is called to be holy? You are. I am. The church is.

³ Word Biblical Commentary.