

# EPHESIANS 1:4-6

LESSON 03

## *Position, Purpose, and Predestination*

### 1. Ephesians 1:4-6 – A Sense

- a. Neh 8:8 – They read in the book... gave the sense... and caused them to understand
- b. Eph 1:4-6 is clouded with confusion, below is a sense of the passage.
- c. 1:4 – We have been selected for a holy position in love.
- d. 1:5 – God’s will and plan was for us to be children of God, ...
- e. 1:6 – ... to magnify his grace, where we stand accepted in Christ.
- f. Eph 1:4-7 is a reverse summary of Romans 3-8 (read for more details)
- g. Everything is contingent on being “in Christ” – 1:3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15

### 2. Ephesians 1:4-6 – God’s Purpose

- a. The “according” 1:4, 5,7,9,11 refers to God’s purpose for the church
- b. “*chosen us in him*” – Us = church, the audience is not all men, but Eph 1:1
- c. “*before the world began*” ... was a mystery purpose God has revealed for the church
  - i. 1 Cor 2:7-8, Col 1:25-26, 2Tim 1:9, Titus 1:2, Eph 3:2-6, Eph 3:9
  - ii. Contrast these with Luke 1:70, Matt 25:34, Acts 3:21 and Rom 16:25
- d. “*holy and without blame*” – Col 1:22, 1:28, 3:12; Ti 2:11-14, Eph 2:10, 5:27, 2Th 2:13
- e. “*in love*” not in works, law, condemnation, etc – Rom 5:8, 8:1, 8:39, Eph 3:17-18,
- f. “*unto children*” – by faith in Christ - Gal 3:26, Rom 8:9-16
- g. “*praise of the glory of his grace*” – It is all of God, and not of us.
- h. 3 elements of grace: 1) You did not work, 2) you benefit, 3) you don’t deserve
- i. “*accepted in the beloved*” – You don’t accept God, he accepts you – Jer 14:10-12
  - i. The Judge doesn’t ask, “do you accept my judgment?” “do you accept me?”
  - ii. Ministries dedicated to convincing the world that God is acceptable must fail
- j. Heaven is not open to all who accept Christ, but all who are accepted in Christ.

### 3. Ephesians 1:4-6 - Predestination

- a. Calvin wrongly thought the elect was us – Matt 24:31, Rom 11:5,7, 1Pet 2:9
- b. Who are the elect? Isa 42:1, 1 Pet 2:6 = Jesus Christ; or Israel = Isa 45:4, 65:9
  - i. To be the elect you must be either in Israel or in Christ – Eph 1:4 “in him”
- c. Calvin thought the mystery was predestinating people to be saved or condemned
- d. What was predestinated? – Rom 8:28-30, Eph 1:11 – our position in God’s purpose
  - i. Predestined passages often overlooked – Eph 2:10, 1 Cor 2:7, Rom 8:18
  - ii. Predestinate concerns the Lord’s purpose & will, not people’s choice & will
- e. Grace is not God’s election of some, and not others – it is Christ’s work by the cross!
- f. The verses are clouded by Calvinism which overshadows the glory of God’s grace.