

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

31 December 2017

730, 930 Tewantin

Every Spiritual blessing

Ephesians 1:3-4

Chosen

Every spiritual blessing – series introduction

1. Chosen, adopted, redeemed, informed, sealed
2. From the Father, in Christ, guaranteed by the Spirit
3. Past, present, future

Chosen

1. What it means
2. Why?
3. The joys and challenges
4. What we should do

... passage is read this morning... a couple of remarks about this passage.

... e people at Christmas time don't we, for whom we don't have a clue **what** to buy, because everything!

... thing they **need**; nothing they **want**...

... age is true... the same thing can be of **every** Christian – every **true believer** – because we notes that the Apostle Paul says we have “every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm” – is”... That is, **spiritually** speaking, we have **everything!** //

... ot feel that way.

... be loads more you want – even **spiritually** speaking!

... been given **everything**...

... ncourages us to rise up in praise.... That's the main point of this passage... to evoke **prais amazing** God of **abundant** blessings... //

... re's a little play on words in the Greek – v3 – it reads – **blessed be God who has blessed u tual blessing**..

... he lists the blessings

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int you to notice – this is very Trinitarian – that these blessings are at the **initiative** of the
because we’re “**in Christ**” and we are sealed or confirmed in these by the **Holy Spirit**...

nt you to note that these blessings are related to **the past, the present and the future**...
in the **past**...God chose us – way back before creation...

d us as his sons and daughters... – that is our **present** status... and did everything to make

s a plan for the future to unite every under the Lordship of Christ... there’s the **future**...

en this treasure chest... and then we’ll explore the first treasure together... /// PASSAGE

straight into the text shall we?

lk with me at v3 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed
ealms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of
and blameless in his sight.*

is **in** Christ before the creation of the world...

ere we are heading with this this morning...

What it means

Why?

The joys and challenges

What we should do

LEARNING

ed a plan – before he put the sun and moon in the sky – before he separated the land and
e placed the fish in the sea – the animals on the land – and the birds in the air... before he
gether... he had a **plan**...

cluded **Jesus the Messiah** and **us**

as to **choose** us (who didn’t exist yet) to be adopted as his own sons and daughters, thro
ork of his **Son** (which hadn’t happened yet)!

was both **corporate** – to have a people of his own – who would be holy and blameless –

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ink about this for a minute...

: you! ///

iod does.

en **Noah** to be saved in the **ark**.

en **Abraham** way back to be the father of a special nation.

en **Israel** as his people

ause Israel were **attractive**? – no look with me from the screen – Deuteronomy 7

*re a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for
possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 It was not because you
umber than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were
all peoples, 8 but it is **because the Lord loves you***

ause he loved them. They weren't the cleverest. The largest nation. The best nation. It w
ey were lovely. But because **he** is love!

YOU don't become arrogant that the Lord has chosen you... read what it says – he chose
d **blameless... implication?** – you were neither... you were **unholy** and **full of blame...**

e set his heart on you NOT because **you** were lovely – but because **he** is **love!** ///

ember lining up to be chosen for a sports team at school...? terrible... soccer... no one E
e... “unco” – short for ‘uncoordinated’... **always** picked last...

ce of you - not on **merit**... not even on **potential**... not because he **foresaw** you were inte
him...

ecause his **love**... his **grace**... his mercy...//

s... **now** and for **eternity**...

igs the question... why?

re **told**... so that as his chosen people we might be **holy and blameless**...

or him... and all our **blame** having been **removed**.

iel were to be a nation set apart to be God's own people – a **distinctive** people... **holy** – s
God – to show the **other** nations the **brilliance** of God....

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chosen to be his... is so we stand out as holy and blameless... and more and more people
s grace... ///

I looked a **little** at what being **chosen** before the creation of the world **means**... a little ab
do that...

does throw up some **challenges** for us... so I want to spend a little time on the

JOYS AND THE CHALLENGES

this is – **knowing** where you stand with God – and realising that this has **nothing** to do w
een called a ‘**comfortable**’ doctrine... because it’s full of **comfort** for the believer...

you are wondering whether you are **good enough**... this doctrine says – **no** – of **course** yo
ve been **chosen** by **God**!

’re wondering whether you can **continue** as a Christian because the way is **hard**... this do
l – you can’t by **yourself**... but you’ll remain in me, not because of **your** tentative grip on I
ip on **you** which has been **planned** and **purposed** from **before creation**!!

you’re wondering whether or not you can trust what God is **doing** in your life because ev
e going **wrong** and nothing is going **right** and you’re wondering whether or not God is or
ether he **cares** or whether he can **do** anything about your situation... **this** doctrine says –
ed... the Lord has had his eye on you since before you were **born** – since the **beginning** o
ust him? Of course you can trust him!! He hasn’t changed his **mind** about **you** and is not :

just **some** of the joys of this teaching. //

at the **challenges**?

ou could list them for me!

uick sample

hat about the **rest**? - those he **doesn’t** choose?

hy doesn’t he just chose **everyone**?

at’s not **fair**... how can a loving God send people to **hell** just because he didn’t **choose** th

hat’s the point of doing evangelism if God’s already chosen those who are his?

on’t we have **free will**?

I’m **chosen**, how can it matter how I live... if I’m **in** – I’m **in**!!

not going to tackle each of those challenges **individually**... but here are some things to c

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and here – is God unfair in choosing some to be his.

then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses "I will have mercy on whomever I will and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

calling the shots? **God** is calling the shots.

...; ... that still leaves the question – how can those who are **not** God's people be **blamed** for their **sin** – which Paul anticipates!– v19 *One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame them? Does he not desire that all men be saved?"*

blame us for not following Jesus if you didn't choose us... it's your fault God!"

'20 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why do you make me like this? Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some for noble purposes and some for common use?'

and the following verses go on to say as much – it is to **God's** glory that he chooses **any** and **all** who would bear with patience any of us who are doomed to destruction... is simply **astonishing**. We do not hold **God** to **account**? **Dare** we question his purposes? **Dare** we accuse him of **injustice**? He will do what he **wants**? And will not the God of all the earth do right?? // Isn't he only capable of what is just and fair?

Does this mean then that **we and our will** play no part at all?

at the same page opening – have a look over at 10 v9 *If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

At the same opening – entirely meaningful to say God chooses... and to say – if you – individual – confess with your mouth – if you make the call – if you choose to believe God raised Jesus from the dead – you are saved. //

– which is it – God or me?? Answer – yes!

Jesus called people to repentance from the very start of his ministry.... – *the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the good news.* It was entirely meaningful for him to do that... because people were free to repent or not.

Jesus after Jesus' resurrection preached that *God now commands people everywhere to repent* – in response to God's calling of the shots and our decision about Jesus... entirely consistent... in a way in which is fully grace. ///

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...to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

...that we are being exhorted to do.

...and to God's choosing of us with a heart full of gratitude...

...him...

...him by living lives to his glory... holy and blameless

...you who have been long time Anglicans will know these precious words from the General Confession... do you remember?

*...and, we pray, give us that due sense of all your mercies, that our hearts may be truly thankful to you, O God, and may declare your praise **not only with our lips, but in our lives**, by giving up ourselves to you in all service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days...*

...these words are so wonderful...

...won't it to be in church on Sunday and praise God in word and song... and join the crowd...

...do you praise him **tomorrow morning**?

...do you **praise** him – will you draw attention to this praise-worthiness in this new year – by living a **distinctive life**?

...before you were you being knit together in your mothers' womb... before you were planned... in fact **before** the creation of the world... before **time**... God hatched a plan... that you would be with **Christ** – and because of **his** saving work – would be **among his people for all eternity**... you would be part of his holy and blameless people... to his glorious praise.

...**what** if it had not been the case? You would be cut off from God... and pay the penalty you **deserve** for your sin against him.

...**but** because he chose you... **you** have been rescued... **forgiven**.... Through the death and resurrection of **Christ** **thereby lavished** with the riches of **God's grace**... and brought into his family as one of his children.

...**and** you are **redeemed**...

...**and** you are **redeemed**... **and** you are **redeemed**... **and** you are **redeemed**... **and** you are **redeemed**...

...**and** you are **redeemed**... **and** you are **redeemed**... **and** you are **redeemed**... **and** you are **redeemed**... **and** you are **redeemed**...