

BEFORE ETERNITY BEGAN

EPHESIANS 1:4

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: It is true that you chose to believe in God by your own will, but the truth that is above all truths is that God had to remove the scales of unbelief for you to see that He chose you and planned your salvation and your life before the world was created.

GOD CHOSE YOU. As God looked down through the endless ages, He not only chose you for salvation; He also chose you to live in intimate fellowship with a unique company of believers. (Ephesians 1:4, fn 1:4, I Thessalonians 2:13, fn 2:13, I Peter 1:1-2, fn 1:2[3rd], Romans 8:28-30, fn 8:29-30, John 15:16, fn 15:16) *Why is it important for you to know that God chose you and why, at this time you are in your small group?*

GOD CHOSE YOU TO BE IN CHRIST. “Christ’s riches are our riches, His resources are our resources, His righteousness is our righteousness, and His power is our power. His position is our position: where He is, we are. His privilege is our privilege: what He is, we are. His possession is our possession: what He has, we have. We are those things and have those things and do those things by the grace of God, which never fails to work His will in those who trust Him.(I Cor. 15:10)” John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Ephesians, p. 10. (Ephesians 1:3-4, fn 1:3, Romans 8:14-17, fn 8:14-17[2nd], Colossians 1:26-28, fn 1:26-27, Colossians 2:6-10, fn 2:6-7) *If you are in Christ, how can you be more like Christ?*

GOD CHOSE YOU TO BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS. Even though God planned our lives before He create the world, we were sinners, and our sin (our unrighteousness) prevented us from coming into His presence. In God’s economy sin must be paid for and His only acceptable payment is death. Jesus paid the price for sin for us by His death on the cross. When we trust Him and exchange our sin for His righteousness, God credits Christ’s own “unblemished and spotless nature” as our position before the Father. “.... because God declares us and leads us to be holy and blameless, we should strive to live lives now that reflect the holiness and blamelessness that is our destiny.” MacArthur, p. 14. (Ephesians 1:4, fn 1:7, Romans 5:6-8, fn 5:8, Romans 5:15-19, fn 5:15-19, I Peter 1:18-19, fn 1:18-19, II Corinthians 5:21, fn 5:21, Hebrews 10:17-22, fn 10:17, fn 10:21-22) *Why are you holy and blameless?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?

