**February 5, 2017 “Chosen to be Holy” Ephesians 1:4-5**

Two weeks ago, we looked at one aspect of predestination and divine election. In that study, we found out that God, before the foundation of the world has established the destiny of every person who would ever live on the face of the earth and yet we also acknowledged that every person has a choice to make as to whether or not they will submit to the will of God in their lives.

Unfortunately, many people get hung on one aspect or the other. They then begin to argue for the sovereignty of God on one hand saying that unless you believe that God has chosen everyone “before the foundation of the earth” and that can be your only view; you have destroyed the sovereignty of God to which I would reply, “if man can destroy the “sovereignty of God” then God is not sovereign at all”. To have that view you would have to ignore many Scriptures that say some like this, “whosoever will may come” and “let him who is thirsty, come and drink freely from the water of life”.

In both cases the main fact is that we have been saved by the grace of God and not by our own works or righteousness but rather He has saved us for the “praise of His glory”. (Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14).

One of the great problems in Christianity today is that we do not correctly understand that there are only two people in the world from God’s point of view. There are the saved, those who will live and reign with Him forever; those who have heard His voice calling them to Himself and those who regardless of how much He has chosen to reveal Himself to them, refuse to bow their hearts and knees before Him even though they are without excuse. (Romans 1:18-20)

Today I would like us to look at two other aspects of what this passage of Scripture is telling us concerning what God has chosen from “before the foundation of the earth.

Ephesians 1:4-5

1. Holy
   1. Greek… “hagios”
      1. To separate from things secular and to dedicate to God
      2. Deuteronomy 7:6
         1. Israel or the Jews
      3. I Peter 2:4-12
         1. Church
         2. II Corinthians 6:17… “come out from among them be ye separate says the Lord”
   2. Jews pursued this in a works based righteousness
      1. Kept to themselves
      2. Dressed in a particular way
      3. Strict observances to certain feasts and holy days
   3. Church unfortunately often has done the same things
      1. Women have to have their hair a certain way
      2. Women can only wear dresses
         1. Sometimes all those dresses have to be the same style
      3. Some churches cannot have drums
      4. Others cannot have music at all
      5. Others separate the men and women in church
   4. These things have nothing to do with holiness
      1. It has to do with our justification
         1. Our standing before God
         2. II Corinthians 5:31
            1. When we understand that we are as righteous as we ever will be
            2. Then rather that pursue sin
            3. We desire to pursue righteousness

II Corinthians 5:20

* + 1. Herein lies the motivation of life for the Christian
       1. I am His ambassador
       2. I am His representative
       3. I am His chosen one
          1. Choses from “before the foundation of the earth to be holy… set apart for His glory

1. Blameless
   1. Greek… am-o-mos
   2. Where?
      1. Before Him
      2. Greek… ka-te-o-pe-in… au too (katenopion autou)
      3. Meaning “to see down in”
   3. The penetrating gaze of the Holy Spirit
      1. Searching gaze into the inner character of the Saints of God
      2. Job 1:1
         1. Stop right here
            1. Consider the life of Job
            2. He lost everything

Except His integrity with God

* 1. Two aspects of holiness
     1. Positional holiness
        1. Colossians 1:21-22
           1. When you and I stand before God at the judgment seat of Christ
           2. We can only appear before God purified by the blood of Christ
     2. Practical holiness
        1. II Peter 3:11
           1. What sort of people ought you to be?

Holy in conduct

Holy in godliness

Holy in looking for His coming

* + - 1. II Peter 3:14
         1. Because you are looking for those things

To be found “by Him”

Peace

Spotless

Blameless

I Pet 2:11-12

Does that describe you? Does that describe me?