

Chosen; Ephesians 1:4-8

I. Choosing

- A. Gym class in grade school
 - 1. It was exciting when you were one of the first ones picked
 - 2. Not so exciting if you were last — or almost last
- B. God has picked us first — and not for some game of dodge ball or stick ball
- C. Ephesians 1:4 (ESV); even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

II. Adoption

- A. Ephesians 1:5–6 (ESV); ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.
- B. Predestined
 - 1. To predetermine, to decide upon beforehand ¹
 - 2. This does not mean that God decided who would and who would not be saved
 - a) Some people use the text in Revelation 7 to say that God will only save 144,000 people and he has already chosen who they are — predestined
 - b) But there is a problem with this thinking
 - c) He says “sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel” but then only lists 11 of the 12 tribes, leaves out Dan and adds in the half tribe of Manasseh (one of Joseph’s sons)
 - 3. This does mean that God predetermined, before the foundations of the world, that He would provide salvation to mankind — He chose us — for adoption!
- C. The fatherless
 - 1. It seems to me that God has a special kindness for those who have no one to care for them — widows and orphans (fatherless)
 - 2. Exodus 22:22–24 (ESV); ²² You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. ²³ If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, ²⁴ and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless.
 - 3. Psalm 146:9 (ESV); The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
 - 4. James 1:26–27 (ESV); ²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.
 - 5. On an interesting note, God does not view religion as a worship service or a belief — He views it as compassion and care for those who cannot care for themselves
- D. We were (are) fatherless — spiritually
 - 1. We were without God
 - 2. Ephesians 2:12 (ESV); remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
 - 3. God — following His own mandate about religion — provided a sacrifice in His Son, Jesus, that would provide a father for the fatherless (us)
 - 4. Ephesians 2:13 (ESV); But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- E. Brought near, bought back, purchased, redeemed

III. Redemption

¹ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 873.

- A. Ephesians 1:7–8 (ESV); ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight
- B. Release from a captive condition, release, deliverance ²
 - 1. We were slaves who have been purchased
 - 2. God, in our purchase, has set us free from bondage
 - 3. Romans 6:17–18 (ESV); ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.
 - 4. Galatians 5:1 (ESV); For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.
- C. A Ransom paid
 - 1. The blood of Jesus was the purchase price for each one of us
 - 2. Acts 20:28 (ESV); Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.
- D. Sins are forgiven
 - 1. Matthew 26:28 (ESV); for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
 - 2. Revelation 1:5 (ESV); and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood
- E. We have been redeemed!
- IV. We are Chosen
 - A. We have been chosen first, before any of us were even born
 - B. God wanted to adopt mankind
 - C. So he gave us a Redeemer, His Unique Son
 - D. We have been bought back, redeemed, to become sons and daughters of God!

² Ibid, 117.