

Ephesians 1: 4-14

“Chosen, Holy, and for God’s praise and glory ”

These words immediately bring up responses from all of us. Our fallen self image and cultural theology of the South cause us to immediately struggle and fling out opinions that go against scripture, yet we do it anyway.

We sometimes feel that we suffer persecution and people don’t understand us because we are Christians.

V4 He chose us. Added with v13 about included because we heard and believed the truth.

1: So to be chosen we first realize that this choosing took place before creation (v4)

2: v5 these chosen are then adopted sons and heirs of Christ.

3: Because of this adoption we thus have redemption and forgiveness of sins which is

v6 freely given to us. V8 He lavished on us v9 He made known His good pleasure

v10 In effect when times have reached fulfillment

V7 This choosing and predestination was not only before creation but for God’s plan, purpose, and conformity of His will.

What is His will? That we were created for His praise and glory.

The only way we can be His praise and glory is by freely accepting His plan for us. Just being a good person and knowing the truth and believing that there is a God is not enough. We must believe and accept this God and join the family!!!

Once this has been achieved the real work and goal is not to just sit back and wait for heaven, but to pursue the life long endeavor of being holy and blameless in His sight. This is what brings Him glory and is His praise.

God will accept nothing less.

How is this achieved? V4 Through His ultimate plan of us being Holy and blameless in His sight.

This Holiness is a moral righteousness. We are not only set free from the blemish of sin but from the change of it and the cause of separation from God because of it. Thus we also are trying to be freed from worldly defilement.

How is this possible? V13 redemption by word of truth, hear of good news, salvation hence comes by believing. Thus we are marked, sealed and promised the HS. Who deposits a guarantee of an inheritance and redemption not just now but in the future.

So again who can have all this?

II Peter 3:9 Not wanting any to perish

John 3:16 Whomever believes shall not perish.

II Thessalonians 2: 10 Those who refuse to love the truth shall perish.

Hence: all people are chosen to be Holy and blameless in God's sight. All can repent because they hear the truth and believe in Christ. Hence we are adopted sons and daughters whose goal is to be God's praise and glory.

By accepting Christ we are participating in God's eternal plan.
So then the question is not who, but have we and are we.
Have we accepted this incredible predestined plan?

And are we Living up to God's design for our lives? Why or why not.