



Chosen IN CHRIST

Eph. 1:4

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see

Twas grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!

AMAZING GRACE

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

AMAZING GRACE

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun
Than when we first begun

The earth-shattering truths of Eph. 1:3:

- a. If God's blessings are spiritual/heavenly, then they are NOT physical/earthly.
- b. If God gave ALL blessings to us the moment we believed, then it is ungrateful and inappropriate for us to pray, beg, plead for more blessings. Don't we believe God?
- c. If the ALL blessings are only IN CHRIST, then they can't be things that unbelievers outside Christ have—health, wealth, prosperity.

In short, the mature spiritual Christian walk comes from Pauline Grace Mystery Truth, which reveals what God is really doing today and the blessings He is really giving today so that we can make use of and praise Him for them. Which is just another way of saying we are displayers, reflectors, radiators of His Glory.

- 1. God chose in eternity past that the vessel or vehicle He would use in His Mystery Program to re-establish His Glory in the Heavenlies would be the Body of Christ (NOT His chosen vessel the Nation of Israel) (Rom. 9:21).
 - a. He is now filling that chosen group or vehicle with all those who believe in the Disp. Of Grace, making them members of His body.
 - b. Then members of the Body of Christ participate in all the blessings that belong to Christ because of His Work on the Cross for them, equipping them for service.

- 2. This is the most common everyday concept possible. We just find it confusing because we have been brainwashed by mancentered theological and man-made religious systems that pervert its meaning.
- 3. What is "chosen" or elected is the vehicle NOT the passengers who will ride in the vehicle. Christ is chosen and all those IN HIM, members of His Body, the Body of Christ become part of God's chosen group.
 - --A uber driver "choses" ahead of time the car he is going to use to drive people around in, the service car.
 - --He does not "chose" ahead of time the passengers that ride in that car. But all who chose to ride with him (by believing in him and his word) are placed into the vehicle he chose.

- 4. Calvinism in all its manifestations is a man-centered theological system that takes the focus off the praise of God's Glory and places it on the praiseworthiness of some people.
 - --If God selected me to be saved but not you, then he must have seen something in me worthy of being saved that He didn't see in you. Too bad for you!

- 5. Ex. Cooking show competition.
 - --The Creator of the Competition came up with the plan and purpose years before, before the contestants applied or even knew of such a plan.
 - --Years before, the creator "chose" 2 groups that he would carry out the plan through: the Red Team and the Blue Team. The creator "chose" that the first 50 applicants (those who "believed") would be placed into the Red Group. He "chose" the next 50 applicants to be placed in the Blue Group.
 - --At the same time, he "predestinated"/predetermined (years before when he came up with the plan) that the Red Team would cook with meat and the Blue Team with fish.

- 6. Well, today in the Disp. Of Grace, God "chose" years before (in eternity past) that He would carry out His plan for the Universe by using 2 groups (2 teams).
 - a. All who believed first (in time) He placed in His "chosen" group, chosen vessel, chosen people: <u>The Believing</u>
 <u>Nation of Israel</u>, in accord with His Prophetic Program to re-establish His Glory on Earth as revealed in the NON-Pauline Scriptures.

b. And those who came later (in the Disp. Of Grace) were placed into His "chosen" group that He would use in His Mystery Program to re-establish His glory in the Heavenlies—the **Body of Christ**—as revealed in the Pauline Scriptures. Having proved that no one can stand before Him based on the Law, God "pre-determined" that this group would receive its adult sonship position with all its (spiritual) blessings up front (Rom. 8:14-15; Gal. 3:6), awaiting only their resurrection bodies (Rom. 8:23; Eph. 1:14).

- 7. Another Example: The United States created a vessel or vehicle of service called the Marines in 1775. A few months later, it began filling its positions with people who "believed" in it and met its qualifications, fully equipping them as members of this governmental body for the service of the US.
 - --Election is unto service (not salvation). The US elected the newly created Marines for a specific service. But it doesn't elect, select or choose every individual who participates in it.
 - --We can chose to be in God's chosen group.

- 8. God devised a plan in eternity past whereby He would restore the whole creation to His Glory under the headship of Christ in Love (Eph. 1:4, 10).
 - a. Love requires free will of fallible creatures.
 - b. Some will freely receive the Love of God and love in return
 —God's Own.
 - c. Some will freely reject it, declaring themselves rebellious enemies of God.
 - d. This resulted in the fall of the Heavenly (angelic/spiritual) realm and the earthly (human/physical) realm.

Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb
Redeemed thro' His infinite mercy
His child and forever, I am

Chorus:

Redeemed, and so happy in Jesus
No language my rapture can tell
I know that the light of His presence
With me shall continually dwell

Chorus:

I think of my blessed Redeemer
I think of Him all the day long
I sing, for I cannot be silent
His love is the theme of my song

Chorus:

I know I shall see in His beauty
The King in whose law I delight;
Who lovingly guards every footstep,
And gives me a song in the night.

Chorus: