

Holy and Blameless Before Him

“...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him...” (Ephesians 1:4, ESV)

1. Paul does not say “He choose us before the foundation of the world **on account of our being** holy and blameless.”

2. Remember that there is **none righteous – no not one!**

“as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” (Romans 3:10–12, ESV)

3. We were dead in our sins and trespasses and God made us alive **by grace alone!**

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ” (Ephesians 2:1–5, ESV)

4. **Holy** (Hagios- Holy, Most Holy Place, Saints, Holy Spirit, Holy Mountain etc...) and **Blameless** (Amomos - blameless, unblemished, without fault)

5. When we think of **Holy and Blameless** we automatically think of someone other than us but that is exactly why God choose us before the foundation of the world.

" But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—" (Romans 3:21, ESV)

"And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption," (1 Corinthians 1:30, ESV)

"and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—" (Philippians 3:9, ESV)

6. In week 2 of this study we looked at the fact that "Every Christian is a saint – you cannot be a Christian without being a saint." **Every true Christian is Hagios.**

7. Someone who is Hagios has been **set apart by God as His own** and it is not because of progress on the persons part.

"At that time the Lord set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord to stand before the Lord to minister to him and to bless in his name..." (Deuteronomy 10:8, ESV)

" Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God," (Romans 1:1, ESV)

"But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace," (Galatians 1:15, ESV)

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9, ESV)

8. When God calls a people for Himself and His service their **behavior changes** – it does not stay the same. There are visible, external, outside changes that happen to the Hagios and Amomos.

"But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints." (Ephesians 5:3, ESV)

"you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:5, ESV)

"so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."

(Ephesians 5:27, ESV)

"but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."" (1 Peter 1:15-16, ESV)

9. Amomos also means **unblemished** and **without fault**.

"so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."
(Ephesians 5:27, ESV)

"he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him," (Colossians 1:22, ESV)

"but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot." (1 Peter 1:19, ESV)

10. God did this out of His own good pleasure and for His own glory and is able to keep us **in this state for eternity**.

" Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy," (Jude 24, ESV)

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. " (Philippians 1:6, ESV)

"for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. " (Philippians 2:13, ESV)

11. We have been chosen before the foundation of the world to be Hagios and Amomos before Him. That does not mean we are on auto-pilot to heaven – it means **we have a race to run**.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,

despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ”
(Hebrews 12:1–2, ESV)

Soil not the fingers which are soon to sweep celestial strings; let not these eyes become the windows of lust which are soon to see the King in His beauty—let not those feet be defiled in miry places, which are soon to walk the golden streets—let not those hearts be filled with pride and bitterness which are ere long to be filled with heaven, and to overflow with ecstatic joy. - CHS

Nay, my brethren, I believe the holier a man becomes the more he mourns over the unholiness which remains in him; but he is in very truth a far better man, he is a spiritual and holy man. - CHS

You have been entreating very much for growth in holiness. Do you know, brother, that in almost every case that means increased affliction? - CHS

He that hath a clean heart will necessarily have clean hands. - CHS

Those whom free grace chooses, free grace cleanses. We are not chosen because we are holy, but chosen to be holy: and being chosen, the purpose is no dead letter, but we are made to seek after holiness. - CHS

To a man who seeks first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, his house is a temple, his meals are sacraments, his garments are vestments, every day is a holy day, and he himself is a priest and a king unto God. - CHS

He that is not holy on the way will not come to that holy end where the thrice holy God reveals himself in his glory. - CHS

Souls that sigh for holiness are not condemned to eternal death, for their sighing proves that they are in Christ Jesus. - CHS

Surely, the very holiness of God that puts into us a desire to be holy is a guarantee to us that he will help us to be holy. He that makes us long for purity will work it in us. – CHS

I do believe that some of God's people are afraid of being too holy, which fear never need haunt them much. - CHS

If your religion does not make you holy, it will damn you as surely as you are now alive. - CHS

The proof that Christ came into the world should be, that his followers are holy. - CHS

Aim at the highest conceivable degree of holiness; and, though you will not be perfect, never excuse yourselves because you are not. - CHS

Depend upon it, you and I do not grow holy by going to sleep. People are not made to grow in grace as plants grow, of which it is said, "They grow ye know not how." The Christian is developed by actively seeking growth, by earnestly striving after holiness, and resolutely endeavouring to obtain it. - CHS

I would sooner be holy than happy if the two things could be divorced. Were it possible for a man always to sorrow and yet be pure, I would choose the sorrow if I might win the purity; for, beloved, to be free from the power of sin, to be made to love holiness, though I have spoken after the manner of men to you, is true happiness. - CHS