

## EPHESIANS CHAPTER ONE EXPLAINS THE TRUE MEANING OF ELECTION

According to chapter 1 verse 2, Paul wrote to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus. Of course, saints include all who are faithful in Christ Jesus, even those of today. According to verse 3, God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. So in verse 4, just as God has blessed all those in Christ, God chose to make holy and blameless (us in Him), and God chose this outcome for the saints before the foundation of the world. God choosing the saints to a particular outcome before the foundation of the world includes our ultimate adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself. Before God chose holiness as the outcome of saints or predestined the saints to adoption, a condition had to be met. The sinner had to become a saint. The sinner had to cooperate with the conviction of the Holy Spirit and allow himself to be brought to saving faith in Jesus for the remission of sin. According to Ephesians 1:1-14, God's election (choosing) and God's predestination was to a specific purpose and God only elected and predestined saints to every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ. A person must be found "in Christ" before he can be elected or predestined. Every instance of election throughout the Old Testament and the New Testament is an election to a task or to service. To be called the elect of God in a positive light requires the saint to be made holy and blameless and God has promised to complete the work He began in us. The work that God began is always in conjunction with a cooperative response of the sinner to the convicting work of the Holy Spirit. In Christ the saints are blessed, chosen to specific blessings, predestined to a specific outcome, adopted, accepted, redeemed, forgiven, enlightened, given an inheritance, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and assured by the Holy Spirit of their salvation. All of these blessings are found in verses 1-14.

God never chooses those who are to be saved (born again). Election is a choice of God in the life of a saint to produce a service that is holy and acceptable.