Dear Open Door Family,

We have a good friend who plays in the NFL. He had to go through the very hard process of being chosen by a team on draft day. I cannot imagine what that is really like, wondering and waiting for that phone call. Yet when the call came he knew he was chosen for a reason. The team that picked him wanted him to compete for a position on their team. The picked him because they had a purpose in mind for him. When we think further about the wonder of being chosen by the Lord Jesus Christ we must always remember we too were chosen with a purpose in mind. Let's look at these verses together.

Ephesians 1:4 (NLT) Even before he made the world, God loved us and ***CHOSE US*** in Christ **TO BE HOLY** and **WITHOUT FAULT** in his eyes.

Ephesians 1:4 (JBP) For consider what he has done - before the foundation of the world ***HE CHOSE US*** **TO BECOME**, in Christ, his **HOLY AND BLAMELESS** children living within his constant care.

Ephesians 1:11-12 (NIV) In him ***WE WERE*** also ***CHOSEN***, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, [12] **IN ORDER THAT** we, who were the first to hope in Christ, **MIGHT BE FOR THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY**.

Ephesians 1:11-12 (JBP) And here is the staggering thing - that in all which will one day belong to him we have been promised a share (since we were long ago destined for this by the one who achieves his purposes by his sovereign will), **SO THAT WE**, as the first to put our confidence in Christ, **MAY BRING PRAISE TO HIS GLORY!**

God chose us. This is a reminder that Salvation came from God. It is NOT our idea. God is the one who sought a way to reconcile us to Himself. The wonder of it all is that our Forgiveness comes at a huge price to God. Jesus came and took on ALL of the limitations of humanity so that He could Die for us. SO THAT we could receive the Grace that God offered us. Salvation being freely given by God's Grace reminds us of the fact that we are chosen FOR a Purpose. We are CHOSEN TO BE Holy and Blameless in His eyes. On one level we are Holy, blameless, and pure in His eyes because God sees us through the death of Jesus and IN HIM in Christ. One old song put it this way:

God sees my Savior and then He sees me - IN the Beloved Accepted and Free

So God sees us as IN Christ and that position is Holy and Blameless and Pure. However, on a practical level each day I am called LIVE my life in His presence in a Holy, blameless and pure manner. I was Chosen FOR that Purpose. So as I live I must depend on Him and His strength and Power to live the godly life for which I was chosen. The ultimate goal - the ultimate reason we were chosen was that we would BRING HIM praise honor and Glory BY THE WAY that we live.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for choosing me. I know that I am Saved by Your Grace and Your death on the Cross for me. Thank You that You chose me FOR a purpose and that You expect me to Live my Life before You in a godly way. Thank You that you call me to Live in a way that causes others to Look to You in wonder. Please Lord, today may my life be to Your Praise and Glory.

Pastor Mark Kieft

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>