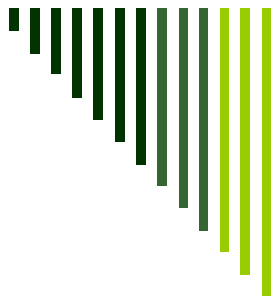


EPHESIANS

Highlights

Jim Hoffman



Chosen By God

Eph 1:4 For he **chose us** in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he **predestined us** to be **adopted** as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will —
NIV



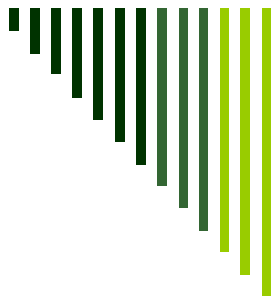
Chosen By God

- I do not understand the doctrine of election, but I believe that God chose me to be saved.
 - I do not understand predestination, but the Bible tells me that I was predestined to be adopted into God's family.
 - The fact that these things are hard to understand does not make them untrue.
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Redeemed by God

- He planned all along to pick us up, clean us up and fill us up!
 - 1 Cor 6:20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. NIV
 - 1 Cor 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. NIV
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Forgiven by God

- We are forgiven. This is a central truth in the salvation story in both testaments. This is among the most basic of our spiritual and emotional needs before God.
- To be forgiven is to have our sins removed from us and to have it be a just transaction.



He Has Given Us His Spirit.

- Eph 1:13-14 having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory. NIV
 - John 14:17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. NIV
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He Has Given Us His Spirit.

- Everyone likes to have assurances that what is promised to us will be granted to us. The Holy Spirit is God's promise to us that all of the spiritual blessings described are really our's.
 - He is also God's seal (or marking) upon us. In ancient cultures one way of sealing possessions was to seal them with a signet ring. God has sealed us with His Spirit.
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We are the body of Christ.

- Chapter one closed with the truth that we, the church, are the body of Christ.
 - I know that is somewhat figurative speech, but I believe that it should be lived out in a very literal fashion.
 - The old song was correct; ‘You’re The Only Jesus Some Will Ever See’.
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Eph 2:4-5

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions ... NIV

- Please do not miss this We were spiritually 'dead', but God gave us life.
 - We were unable to change our situation, but he was able and intervened on our behalf.
 - We were pursuing our own ends, but he was pursuing us.
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Eph 2:6-7

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. NIV

- It is true that because we have been lifted to a lofty position that we will be forever blessed, but do not lose sight of the more important truth.

 - Our salvation is to show how great God is; how merciful he is; and how gracious and kind he is.

 - Hard as it is for us to accept, our salvation is more about God than it is about us.
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Eph 2:10

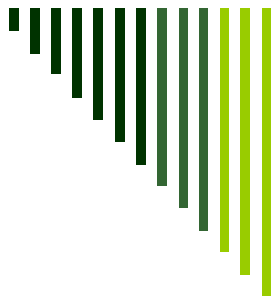
For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV

- An old, but truthful saying ***No one is saved by works, but all are saved to do good works.***
 - Another one ***We are saved by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone.***
 - Works do not save us, but good works *always* follow salvation.
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Gentiles and Faith

- Far more was made of the mark of circumcision than God ever intended. Circumcision was given as a sign of God's covenant with Abraham.
 - It was a picture of what was needed spiritually in that it pictured the cutting away of the flesh.
 - **In God's mind, the circumcision that counts is the circumcision of the heart.** (Romans 2:28-29)
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Eph 2:14

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, NKJV

- The main point of separation in the temple was to illustrate the 'wall' that stood between God and men; their sin.
 - When Jesus died on the cross you will recall that the veil of the temple (that walled off the Holy of Holies) was torn in two from top to bottom.
 - This, the scriptures tell us, was done by God to show that the ransom had been paid and no longer would a wall separate God from His people.
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We have a duty.

- We have a duty to God, each other, and to the lost world to maintain unity in the body of Christ.
 - John 17:20-23 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us **so that the world may believe that you have sent me.** 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity **to let the world know that you sent me** and have loved them even as you have loved me. NIV
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Eph 3:12-13

In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory. NIV

- Now here is the sad truth to our shame; though the penalty has been paid and the way has been paved, we come so infrequently.
 - Prayer is perhaps the least used privilege that we own. I know we all pray, but we often pray half-heartedly and so often selfishly.
 - I say those things not based just on my experience, but on the weight of many conversations with fellow Christians.
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Eph 4:3-6

3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. NIV

- Here is how things so right can go so wrong.
 - Mark 8:22-25 (blind man healed with spit)
 - John 9:1-6 (blind man healed with spit and mud)

 - Two miraculous healings, but if these two guys ever spoke they might well have a doctrinal difference over mud.
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Eph 4:3-6

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- There is a call here for us to major on the majors instead of majoring on the minors.
 - Because of the ‘mud battle’ we already discussed, God had Paul address the important truths that we need to agree on.
 - Some things are worth fighting for, and others are not.
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Eph 4:3-6

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□ Oneness is not sameness.

- In the essentials, unity.
 - In the non-essentials, liberty.
 - In all things, charity.
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God's Purposes for the Church.

□ To serve the world around us.

- Eph 4:12 “to prepare God's people for works of service” NIV
 - Find your gift and use it to help to build the kingdom.
 - What is your best advice to people for how to find their spiritual gift(s)?
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God's Purposes for the Church.

- To help each other become like Christ.
 - Eph 4:12 so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. NIV
 - Grow in our faith. (how?)
 - Grow in our knowledge. (how?)
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Eph 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. NIV

- Listen to this description of God!
 - Not only can God do more than we ask, and more than we are able to know; He is also able to do more than we can imagine.
 - The same power that makes Him powerful beyond our imagination is the same power that is at work in us.
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Eph 4:17

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. NIV

- To 'no longer live as the Gentiles do' is the essence of repentance. We turn from our sin towards God.
 - A change of mind that is so strong that it produces a change of heart and a change of direction.
 - All of our actions are first mental before they become experiential. (what we think about is what we do)
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Eph 4:30

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

NASB

- When we sin, we grieve the Holy Spirit.
 - When we disobey, we quench the Holy Spirit.
 - So what? The so what is that all of the things we are being asked to do in the passage become standard fare for the person who will yield to the Holy Spirit each day.
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Eph 5:1-2

5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. NASB

- We are never more spiritual than we are when we behave, think, and prioritize as Jesus did.
 - Rooted in Jesus is where all true ministry begins and ends.
 - It begins with Christ at work in us and it ends with us casting our crowns at His feet.
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Eph 5:1-2

5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. NASB

- He *loved the unlovely* and was not afraid to *touch the untouchable*.
 - He was more about *being a friend* than he was about *having friends*.
 - He was the ultimate giver and taker all at once; *He gave us life, and took our sin*.
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Eph 5:3

But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; NASB

- “The best hope our world has is not new programs, but new people”. (James Montgomery Boyce)
 - Matt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. NKJV
 - When we stop living like the world and start living like Jesus we make a difference in our world and we validate the gospel’s power.
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What does the Spirit-filled life look like?

- Praising God
 - Eph 5:19

 - Thanking God
 - Eph 5:20

 - Submitting to others
 - Eph 5:21
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What does the Spirit-filled life look like?

- Spirit-filled Christians are people who praise God in a variety ways. Speaking psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to each other and singing from the heart to God.
 - Spirit-filled Christians are thankful people and they are thankful at all times for all things.
 - And then the real test ... Spirit-filled Christians are submissive to the needs and authorities around them.
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What does the Spirit-filled life look like?

- **Boldness to witness.**
 - **A greater concern for the lost.**
 - **New freedoms in worship.**
 - **An overflowing and contagious joy.**
 - **A heightened hatred for sin.**
 - **A new desire for holiness.**
 - **Enhanced effectiveness in ministry.**
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Eph 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"-which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." NIV

- The first duty of children is to obey their parents. This is not only true to those who believe the bible, but it is true in almost every religion and culture of the world.
 - Many psychologists believe that if a child is allowed to disobey his parents that he is very likely to grow up to disobey God as well.
 - They instinctively make an association between earthly father and heavenly Father and follow what 'worked' for them in childhood.
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Ephesians 6:5-9

Slaves and Masters

- As employees we should:
 - Respect our supervisors.
 - Do more than the minimum required.
 - Maintain a good and positive attitude.
 - Work as hard when unsupervised as when supervised.
 - Remember who you really serve.
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Ephesians 6:5-9

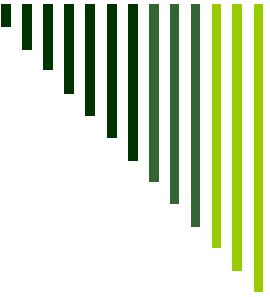
Slaves and Masters

- As supervisors we should:
 - Remember our authority is borrowed.
 - Treat employees as you want to be treated.
 - Never forget that your employees have an advocate that is your judge.
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Eph 6:10-11 Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. NASB

- Our enemy, Satan, knows a lot, but he is not omniscient.
 - He is very powerful, but not omnipotent.
 - He gets around, but he is not omnipresent.
 - He is to be respected, but not feared.
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Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. NASB

- Be certain of this We are in a battle and the battle may manifest itself in physical ways, but it is primarily a spiritual battle.
 - Every thing that we attempt for the Lord is resisted in one way or another by the enemy and his demons.
 - We should not wonder why spiritual advances for ourselves and our loved ones are difficult; they are being met with resistance.
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Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. NASB

- There is an unseen battle that is in constant motion around us in the unseen spiritual world.
 - If we could peer into that realm for just an instant, we would no longer doubt anything that God has told us and we would be evangelistic zealots.
 - For now, we must observe what can be seen to gain an understanding of the battle that we cannot see.
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Ephesians Highlights

God has redeemed us so that we could be His hands, feet, and voice in this world. We will never be pleasing to Him nor pleased with ourselves until we enter into, and embrace that truth.
