

In Love

Scripture

“Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” (Eph 1:4 NKJV).

Devotion

Looking at this verse the words “just as” stand out as a marker. What does Paul mean when he says just as? Ephesians 1: 3 reads, “Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly [places] in Christ” (Eph 1:3 NKJV). So the just as must refer back to this blessing. God blessed us for future glory, and has given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

This He did according to His eternal purpose before the foundation of the world just as he chose us according to His eternal purpose to the end that we would be holy and without blame before Him in love. What was the instrument of this blessing except Christ, and what was the result except that we are able to stand before Him in love!

It is because of God’s love that we are holy and acceptable. “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins.” (1Jo 4:9-10 NKJV)

Bow low before Him and praise His holy name for He has loved you. Give thanks to the Almighty for you have received an eternal blessing that the world does not know. As Christ proclaimed to Peter, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed [this] to you, but My Father who is in heaven.” (Mt 16:17 NKJV)

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” (1Jo 4:11 NKJV) “. . . God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Ro 5:8 NKJV) “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down [our] lives for the brethren.” (1Jo 3:16 NKJV)