

God's choosing. The Greek noun ἁγίουσ which is translated "holy" means clean from guilt, and the Greek noun ἀμώμοουσ which is translated "without blame" means free from any ground of blame. The Greek phrase κατενώπιον αὐτοῦ which is translated "before him" means in God's sight.

In this passage, therefore, the Apostle Paul said that in eternity before the creation of the world began, God chose out for Himself from mankind those who would be saved in virtue of the redemption which Christ as their federal head and representative would accomplish for them in order that they should be clean from guilt and free from any ground of blame in His sight.

Here the Bible is very explicit in its teaching that God chose those who would be saved in eternity before the creation of the world, for in this passage the Apostle Paul said that in eternity before the creation of the world began, God chose out for Himself from mankind those who would be saved.

In Romans 8:29,30 we read:

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified.⁹⁵

In this passage the Greek verb προέγνω which is translated "he did foreknow" is a compound word consisting of the Greek preposition πρό meaning "before,"⁹⁶ and the Greek verb γινώσκω meaning "to know."⁹⁷ The Greek verb γινώσκω meaning "to know" in this context means to fix the mind upon, and it carries with it the idea of choice. This meaning

⁹⁵Rom. 8:29,30.

⁹⁶Thayer, op. cit., p. 536.

⁹⁷Ibid., p. 117.