

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

12.31.2023

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Chosen in Christ

Ephesians 1: 3 – 14

God knew the present even before the beginning, likewise, he also knew our ending even before our starting point. God is the only one who is able to know all things, because he created all things, therefore, he has expressed his sovereignty, by choosing us before the foundation of the world, and even though he choose us to be in him before time as we know it, he knows whether or not, that we, by faith believing, will accept the saving grace of his Son, Jesus Christ, but, he placed the responsibility of that faith upon every individual. So, here is how this works: Moses first mentioned it in Exodus,

Exodus 32: 32,....yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin, and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written....

Now, if we move on to:

Revelation 20: 15,....and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire....

Revelation 13: 8,....and all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the lamb slain before the foundation of the world....

Revelation 17: 8,....and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world....

Everyone whose name was not written in the book of life of the lamb from the foundation of the world, these are those who God knew would not believe in the saving grace of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Now in:

Ephesians 1: 4,....according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love....

Romans 8: 28 – 29,....he who did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son....

2 Thessalonians 2: 13,....God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through the sanctification of the spirit and belief in the truth....

This shows unto us that the names of the believers were written in in the book of life from the foundation of the world. Now, God, who is omniscience already foreknows what we will do, so he can speak of us as his chosen people, because our names are already in the book of life even before we were born. So, does this mean that our salvation is predetermined? No, it does not.

Ephesians 1: 13,....in whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise....

1 Peter 1: 2,....elect, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ....

So, God foreknew who would believe, and he already has those names written in the book of life, but until we believe, by faith, our entry in the book of life is not sealed. When we by faith believing accept the saving grace of Jesus Christ, our names which are written are then sealed in the book of life.

So, what does Revelation 3: 5 mean?

Revelation 3: 5,....he that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment, and I will not blot his name out of the book of life....

Now, first of all, this is speaking of those that are saved by grace, through faith believing in Christ, and are members of the body of Christ. The reason that they were being addressed in this passage of scripture is that because even though they were born again in Christ, they were not abiding in Christ, their life was fruitless and unproductive. Therefore, they were not growing in their faith, nor were they maturing in their spiritual life in Christ, so the message that they shared was a compromised message, and not of truth. Through the word of God, we are encouraged to grow in our faith, and in our spiritual maturity, and this encouragement comes from knowing that as overcomers we are secure in knowing that we are sealed, and that our name can never be erased out of the book of life.

Ephesians 1: 3 – 14,....blessed be....God....who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings....according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world....having predestined us....to himself....according to....his will....wherein he hath made us accepted....in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins....wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom....having made known unto us the mystery of his will....that in....the fullness of times he might gather together....all things....in him....in whom....we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to his purpose....of him who worketh all things after....his own will....who first trusted in Christ....whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise....which is the earnest of our inheritance....

God blesses us with spiritual blessings from above. These blessings are nothing that we deserve, or earn, these blessings belong to us because of our relationship with God, through Christ. Those who are his were chosen before creation, and all are called to repent, but not all who are called are obedient, not all who are called are chosen.

Matthew 22: 14,....for many are called, but few are chosen....

Those who are chosen, God has predetermined that they would be placed into his family, a family that is not naturally ours, and naturally means that of the world, but a heavenly family secured as part of the body of Christ.

As those who are redeemed, which means those who are released from the captivity of sin, and those who have received Christ as their personal savior, we are to become the ultimate purpose of Gods plan, and because of his grace we are blessed, not because we are worthy, but because we have security in Christ. Through the Holy Spirit we are sealed, and we no longer need to live in sin, for he has made known unto us the mystery of his will.

Romans 16: 25 – 26,....to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel....according to....the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest, and by the scriptures....according to the commandment....made known to all nations for the obedience of faith....

This mystery, or spiritual truth, that previously had been held from mankind, but now is made known, and this mystery includes the complete plan of salvation, which is described as the redemption of this purchased possession. For this reason, Gods will now becomes the goal of all his chosen people, for there are no limits to Gods grace for those who are his. Therefore, we should never take for granted our relationship with God, for everything that he does for us is based upon who he is and what he has done for us, and not on who we are or what we do. One of the greatest provisions that he gives unto us, is that, when by faith, we believe, he gives unto us the indwelling Holy Spirit, which seals us as one that is chosen in Christ.

Let us Pray.

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