

Ephesians

Part 3

In Him you were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will.

Ephesians 1:11

Last week we looked at Ephesians 1:3-10. Paul gave us a very vital picture of who you are in Christ. He spoke about the work of Jesus in your life and who you were chosen to be. Today we are looking at the plan that the “chosen” ones of God have (read Eph 1:11-14).

Read the above verse again. Do you know that the Lord has been thinking about you for a very long time? Not only is the Lord with you every day and every moment, but He has planned your future. He also planned how you fit into His grand destiny even before you existed. I love what David says, “All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be” (Psalm 139:16). Does God really have a book with your name and your destiny in it?

He knows every baby that has been aborted and has a plan. He knows every child who has been abused or abandoned and has a plan for them. He knows every person who has been rejected by parents and so-called friends and has a plan. He knows every trial that we all face and has a wonderful plan. Actually, He knows every person who has ever been born and has a plan. Last week we learned that He plans to redeem them. Buy them back from all the harm the evil-one has wrought upon them and make them holy and blameless in His sight. Then He blesses them in the spiritual realms with every spiritual blessing. Now we learn that He places them into his Kingdom to be (1:12) “the praise of His glory.”

Paul says in verses 13-14 that you also were included in His plan when you believed in the gospel and sealed with His Holy Spirit guaranteeing your final destiny, heavenward in Christ Jesus (see Philippians 3:12-14). Our final destiny is to be with Him forever (John 14:1-3). And I say destiny, not destination. Arriving at a destination somehow implies that the trip is over. It is not. When we enter the Kingdom created for us in heaven (Matthew 25:34) there is still a wonderful plan for us!

Ask yourself a question. How are you conforming with the purpose of His will as Paul says in the opening verse above? If I buy a car and use it for a boat I’m in trouble. If you believed in Jesus and live as the world does you are in trouble too. The car will sink and so will you. You were meant to live for “the praise of His glory.” What about His plan? One of the most widely quoted scriptures is Jeremiah 29:11 where the Lord says, “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” That is God’s heart. But He is speaking to a people who are in captivity because they lived in disobedience to His will. He also has a plan for those who do not live in conformity to His will.

Let’s encourage one another and all the more so as we see the Day approaching to live for the praise of His will. As I took time to pray this morning I asked the Lord to help me live wisely in this depraved generation. The best praise we can give to Jesus is to live for Him and know the plan He has for us (read Matthew 25:31-44).