

### 6.09.19 ~ Ephesians 1:8b-14, Marked by God, for God...

Today we are going to study how God has marked all Christians, declaring us to be His possession, and that we should bring Him glory and honor and praise.

Our main text today is **Ephesians 8b-14**, but as a side note, this section of Scripture is included in the long sentence that began in **verse 3**.

**Read Ephesians 1:8b-10...** What is the *mystery*? (see **Colossians 1:25-27; Romans 16:25-27**). When will this *mystery* be fully revealed? When everything is placed in submission to Jesus Christ, Lord, Savior, Almighty God, Judge over All: He alone has supremacy (see **Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:17-20**).

All who believe in and follow Jesus Christ will experience God's peace; for Christians have overcome sin, death and judgment through Christ. **John 5:24** tells us we have been granted everlasting [eternal] life.

**Matthew 5:45** says God causes the sun to rise and the rain to fall on both the just and the unjust, for these belong to the believing and the unbelieving; but God's spiritual and eternal favor is only for those who belong to Christ.

**Read Ephesians 1:11-12...** God has **chosen** [sovereignly selected] out of all those who will ever live on earth, a small number of people who will bring Him honor, glory and praise.

God **predestined** (foreknew, predetermined, marked out ahead of time) that God would have a people of His very own, Old Testament Saints, New Testament Christians, Tribulation Period and Millennial Kingdom believers in the Word of God and the Testimony of Christ, would be adopted into God's eternal family, so that, as long as we live on this side of the New Heavens and New Earth, we might be conformed to the image and character of God's Son.

God determined, before anything was made, that Christians (those who have faith in, and believe in Christ), should bring praise, honor and glory to God, and God fully equips us to do so, for He has:

**Verse 3** - blessed us with every spiritual blessing

**Verse 5** - adopted as His children with full rights

**Verse 7** - redeemed us, forgiving our sins

**Verse 8** - lavished on us all wisdom and understanding

A couple of weeks ago, we studied about the tension surrounding the paradox of God's sovereignty vs. man's free will in salvation; the conclusion being, both are taught in Scripture, both must be believed.

Note: On our way up to heaven we see a sign in the sky that reads, "Whosoever will may come", looking at the backside of that sign, as we pass by, we read, "Chosen in Him before the foundation of the world was laid."

It was God's plan from the beginning that man would bear God's divine image, but the image and likeness of God in man was obliterated by sin, and it can only be restored through Christ (see **Genesis 1:26, 31; 2:25; 3:1-15, 21-23; 5:1, 3**).

How quickly mankind digressed from bearing the image of God, living in Eden, innocently naked, with no shame; to hiding from God while trying too cover their nakedness with vegetation; they had sinned and were now forced to leave Eden; they would have to work the ground to eat; not only that, but their children would now bear the image of sinful humanity, instead of God.

God already had a plan and provision in place to restore the broken relationship between mankind and Himself (cf. **Genesis 3:15**), Jesus, God's Son, would be born to Mary, a Savior to all who will believe in Him; for He would restore all things; in fact, **Romans 5:1** tells us, "we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," (**Romans 8:6**) "For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace."

What couldn't be accomplished through physical creation and physical birth alone, is made effectual through our spiritual birth, which is from above, from heaven, from God the Father, through Christ the Son, by the Holy Spirit (**John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5-8**).

God desires for us to bear His image and to bring Him glory through Jesus Christ, in all that we do (**2Corinthians 5:17; 1Corinthians 15:58; Colossians 3:17**).

It has been God's plain from the very beginning that Christians would be made an inheritance for God, and they would also receive an inheritance from God. We, as God's children, are both, an inheritance, and inheritors.

**Read Ephesians 1:13-14...** When you believe in Christ, you are saved for eternity, for God marks you as His own, this being done by the presence of God's Holy Spirit in you. The Holy Spirit is not a what, He is a Who, the 3rd person of the Godhead, and He is God's "pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."

**Romans 11:29** says, "God's gifts and His call are irrevocable." As a Christian, you belong to God forever, your salvation cannot be lost, stolen, or given back -- it is eternal! God saved us to serve Him, bearing His image, bringing Him glory, by the power of His indwelling Spirit Who sets us apart as God's very own children.

God has graciously determined that all those who hear and believe the word of truth concerning God's One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, will immediately and eternally be marked by God's Holy Spirit, for the purpose of serving God on earth, while waiting to be joined with Him in heaven for eternity (**Rev. 21:1-5**).

My question to you today, is this: Have you been marked as God's possession by the Holy Spirit? Is there evidence in your life that you belong to Christ?

**2Corinthians 13:5** says you are to examine, to test yourself, to see whether or not Christ Jesus is in you, unless, of course, to see if you pass/fail the test?

God never intended for Christianity to provide some sort of "I hope so" salvation, like the many false religions of this world. No, God's clear intent is that

Christianity provide a "I know so" salvation, and this is made effectual through a personal, intimate, and eternal relationship with God our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.

If there is any doubt in your heart that you belong to Jesus Christ, that you have been born again and marked by God's Holy Spirit, please, pray to God for the forgiveness of your sins, believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

**1John 5:11-13**, "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

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