

God's Plan For YOU!

- *Ephesians 1:1-7*

- **Story of Hede Green (1916)**
 - Though she lived the life of a person in poverty, in fact she was a multi-millionaire (\$100M)
 - She would eat cold oatmeal every morning so she would not have to spend money to heat the water.
 - When her son got a leg infection, she waited so long to try to find a “Free” clinic to treat him that his leg was severely infected & doctors had to amputate his leg.
 - She even hastened her own death by not taking care of herself & debating the value of skim milk vs. whole milk & how much money she could save.
- **We have great riches in Christ, but many choose not to accept His blessings & His free gift of salvation.**
- **That are many who just can't believe that a Holy God would love them in their wicked, sinful state, but He does. Many can't believe that Jesus would die on the cross for their sins, but he did. Some believe even though Jesus loves them and He died on the cross for their sins they could never live the Christian life, but we can through Christ and Christ alone. We can if we surrender our all to Him.**
- **Spurgeon has said it was a good thing God chose him before he was born b/c if He had waited till after, He might have changed His mind.**
- **If you knew how a race would turn out, would you choose a winner or a loser?**
- **You may not think you are a winner & how could God possibly choose me. But do not forget, we are a work-in-process, God is not finished with us yet and we should not be content with where we are. Our desire should be to day by day, action by action, decision by decision to draw closer to God.**
 - It has been said that “God has pre-destined that every man go to Heaven and Satan has pre-destined every person to damnation, we hold the deciding vote”. (John 3:16; Romans 5:6-8)
- **God has a DIVINE PLAN for each of our lives this morning. Let me share this plan with you this morning.**

I. God's Plan Is For Us To Be Holy And Without Blame (v.4)

- **God desires for us to be with Him. He does not want us to be separated from Him by sin but instead chose us so that we might live with Him forever.**
- a. **God has chosen us to be “holy”: to be set apart**
 - i. Ephesians 4:24 – “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”
 - ii. I Peter 1:15-16 – “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”
 - iii. II Peter 3:11 – “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,”
- b. **God chose us to be “blameless”: free from sin, purity on the inside and outside.**
 - i. Philippians 2:15 – “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;”
 - ii. I Thessalonians 5:23 – “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - iii. God does not just choose perfect people, but He chooses people that He might perfect them through Christ and not of ourselves. Jesus is the only One who has ever lived a perfect life on this earth & it stands that He should be the only One to have

complete righteousness in and of Himself. But through Him, the Bible says He hath made us righteous through Him.

- iv. God loved us so much that he has accepted our faith in Christ as the righteousness of Christ.
 - 1. God loved us so much that He knew we would never be able to live to the standard that He had set so He provided a sinless, perfect & righteous sacrifice for us on the cross of Calvary so that through His blood, we might be made righteous.

II. God's Plan Is To Adopt Us As His Children (vv.5-6)

- a. Often times we here people reflect on their moment of salvation by stating that was the moment "they found God", but in actuality, God found them before time began. God was not lost, we were.
- b. God not only loves us, He not only provided a way of escape from damnation for us, He not only rose victorious over the grave & desires to be a help & comfort to us in our time of need but He desires to adopt us as his children. And He did all of this the Bible tells "in that while we were yet sinners".
 - i. That is one of the greatest miracles of all. It would be one thing if He would have died for us and
 - 1. We were pretty good people
 - 2. We were of His chosen people
 - 3. We had something of value to offer Him in return
- c. As a little boy longs to be just like his daddy & to make him proud of his son, so should we desire to be just like Christ so that we can bring honor and glory to Him. As a little girl clings to her father for comfort & love, so should we run to Christ & cling to Him in our time of need. We should desire to be more like Him.
 - i. As I mentioned Sunday night, we must get to the point in our lives where we realize that our lives are not about us, it is all about Him.

III. God's Plan Is For Us To Bring Praise To Him (v.6)

- a. Because of the grace that He shows toward us.
 - i. The unmerited favor that we are so undeserving of.
 - ii. His grace was FREE to us.
- b. We should offer Him our praise because it is nothing of our own through which we are saved.
 - i. Fourth of July Parades are tributes to veterans for their sacrifice for our freedom.
 - ii. The Christian life should be a living "parade" of Christ sacrifice for us.
 - 1. What kind of tributes to others see in our life?
 - 2. What are we glorifying and praising?

IV. God's Plan Is To Forgive Our Sins (v.7)

- a. Christ set us free from the slavery of sin, He freed us from the bondage of our past and He bought our ticket to eternity with Him.
 - i. A slave or a criminal is powerless to free himself from his bondage. He cannot pay enough money or do enough good deeds to liberate himself from his imprisonment. He must rely on someone else to redeem him if he is to be set free. It is only through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ that we are redeemed of our sins. It is only through His precious blood that our sinful heart can be washed white as snow.
 - ii. Romans 3:24 – "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"
- b. We have all broken God's law and the penalty is eternal death. BUT, Jesus Christ paid the penalty and has forgiven our sins because of His love for us.
 - i. Song "Jesus Paid It All"

- ii. I John 4:10 – “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
- c. **Any person who realizes that they have fallen below God’s standard of perfection and believes that Jesus Christ died on the cross for their sins and will call upon Him as Lord of their life, the Bible says that they can be free from the guilt & eternal punishment from their sins.**