

## Lesson #10 - Ephesians

Before starting this lesson, read **the entire book, chapters 1-6**.

As we go thru the New Testament, we find it is put together in a very logical manner.

After the book of Acts, the rest of the New Testament is teaching - first of all for members of local churches.

The first topic is **SALVATION**.

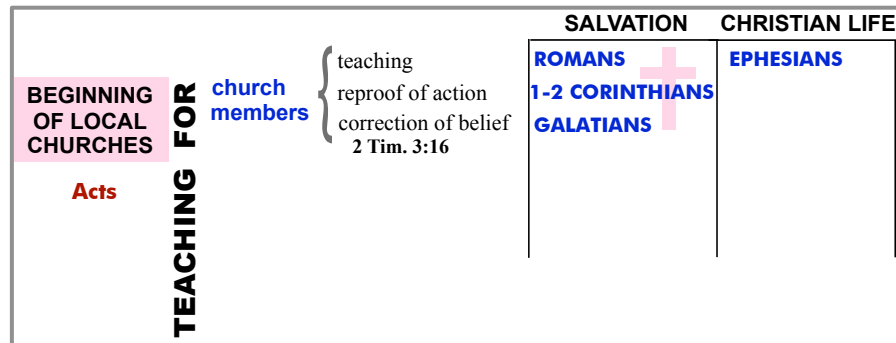
**ROMANS** is the teaching about salvation.

**1<sup>st</sup>** and **2<sup>nd</sup>** **CORINTHIANS** are reproof of wrong action - they were not practicing their salvation.

**GALATIANS** is correction of wrong belief about salvation.

The Galatians thought to be right with God or to stay right with God depended on **what they did**.

Paul explains they could never be good enough or do enough. It is not what they do, but **what Jesus already did** – He made the payment for their disobedience.



Salvation that Jesus provides is wonderful. But it is not the end. It is only the beginning of our journey of faith. Those who now belong to Christ – Christ-ones, Christians – are responsible to show it by the way they live.

So the next topic of books is the **CHRISTIAN LIFE**.

Once again there is teaching, reproof of action and correction of belief.

The **teaching** about the Christian life is our book of **EPHESIANS**.

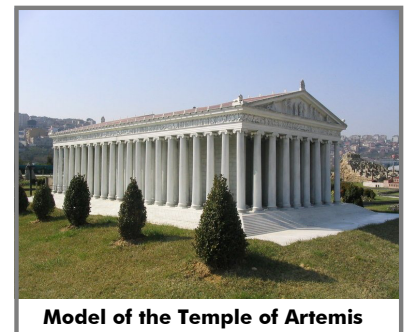
## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

Ephesus was a port city and the capital of Asia province. It had one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world - the famous white marble temple built to honor the goddess Artemis. This made the city a religious center, bringing in thousands of tourists. It was also the center for the occult world. People could learn how to get power from evil spirits. They could buy scrolls with incantations and formulas for casting spells over people. It is why Paul tells the church members how to defeat this spirit world.

Paul's first contact with the people was en-route to Jerusalem at the end of his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey. On his 3<sup>rd</sup> trip, he spent over 2 years teaching both Jews and Gentiles, from 53 to 55 AD. Local churches were established thruout the province. When a riot broke out and threatened his life, Paul had to leave suddenly. Several months later, again on his way to Jerusalem he passed near Ephesus to meet with the church leaders. He warned them that false teachers would seek to change their beliefs.

When Paul arrived in Jerusalem, he was arrested and sent to a Roman prison in Caesarea. After 2 years and no trial, Paul used his rights as a Roman citizen and appealed to the supreme court.

He was sent to Rome and during his appeal, was kept under house arrest - 58-60 AD. It is during his 2<sup>nd</sup> year c. 60 AD that Paul writes the Ephesians. Because it is written while he is a prisoner, the book is called a prison epistle or captivity letter. However, this does not mean he is writing from a Roman dungeon. He is living in a rented house along with a Roman soldier. One of his wrists is always fastened to the wrist of a soldier with 6 feet of chain in between.

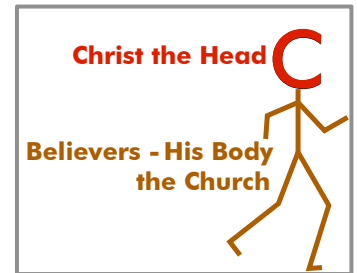


Paul writes this book to all believers in and around Ephesus. Now that they have salvation, they need to know that God developed a plan and picture for the Christian life. This letter is the first time Paul has written a local church about the details of this plan.

Christ is pictured as Head.

All believers are pictured as His Body - called the Church.

It includes all believers thruout the world starting from the time of Pentecost until the return of Jesus for us.



## OUTLINE

Christ as Head 1-3  
What He gives us  
How He gives it  
Why He gives it  
We as members of His Body 4-6  
Our response...  
To other believers  
To society  
In the home  
Against Satan

## DEFINITIONS WITH EXPLANATIONS

Before looking at any verses, we need to look at 3 words that Paul uses in this book.

### PREDESTINATE

The word means *to establish in advance - to make a plan*.

From Scripture we know that before God even created the world, He made a plan of salvation.

He determined how it would be accomplished and the results there would be in the lives of believers.

In other words, He knew that after he created Adam and Eve, they would rebel.

So before He created anyone, He made a salvation plan - that once people did rebel, they could choose whether to continue their rebellion or to follow God's way.

**Predestination** - God's plan that He established in advance (see endnote)

How salvation would be accomplished

How God would use those who accepted His salvation

How salvation would be seen in the lives of those who accepted it

### CHOSEN

The Bible refers to the Jews as God's *chosen* people.

This does not mean they were chosen to the exclusion of others.

They were chosen for a purpose - to be the voice thru whom God's message would reach everyone else.

We who are believers and members of the Church, the Body of Christ are also *chosen*.

But it is not to the exclusion of others.

We are chosen for a purpose - to be the voice thru whom God's message reaches everyone else.

God chose, He planned, He predestined to **use** the Jews and then the Church even before He created the world.

### MYSTERY

It means a spiritual truth that was not previously known or revealed. Paul says that God has given him the privilege of knowing and explaining several mysteries.

1. God works in different ways in different time periods.

2. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit planned salvation before the world was even created.

3. They also decided what that plan would do for those who chose to believe.

These are things not previously known that Jesus personally taught to Paul at Mt. Sinai.

This letter is the first time Paul is putting these truths into writing for a local church..  
As Paul thinks of all that God will accomplish in His salvation plan, he is so thrilled that everything comes rushing out all at once. In the original Greek, in chapter 1, verses 3-14 are just one long sentence. We will divide it into short sentences and thoughts.

## DEVELOPED OUTLINE

**Because Christ is our Head – God the Father gives us...**

### **SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS**

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the **heavenly** realms with every **spiritual blessing in Christ**.* 1:3

Notice, these are not material or physical blessings such as food, clothing or a home.  
Paul is talking about **spiritual** blessings that involve our relationship with God the Father.

The first spiritual blessing is mentioned in verse 4.

*Because He chose us in Him before the creation of the world, to be holy and blameless **in His sight**.*

The phrase *in His sight* is the key. Your translation may read, *before Him in love or in His presence*. The actual Greek word is a combination of 3 root words meaning **see-down-in**. It means God the Father is staring at us to the very depth of our being.

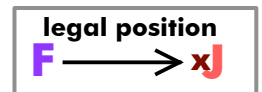
This could be frightening. So Paul tells us, before the world was created, God the Father made His plans.

The moment we accept the payment of Jesus, the holiness of Jesus is credited to our account.

From that point on, the **FATHER SEES US IN JESUS**, as holy and blameless.

This is our **legal** standing before God the Father.

The Bible uses the word **justification** – We are **declared holy**.



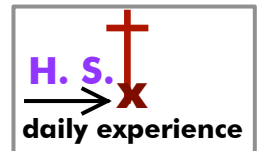
This does not mean God ignores our disobedience. It is why He gave us the Holy Spirit.

He convicts us and gives us power to deal with the things that are still unholy.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT SEES US AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS.**

This is our **daily** experience.

The Bible uses the word **sanctification**. We are **becoming holy**.



The Holy Spirit, other people and we see ourselves as we are in our daily experience.

But God the Father planned from the very beginning, that **He would look at believers only in Jesus**.

Remember, Jesus is at the Father's right hand.

When the Father turns and looks at His Son, He feels love, joy, happiness, pleasure and delight.

This is how God feels about **us** right now because He sees us in the loveliness, holiness and beauty of Jesus.

But why would God choose to do that?

God is holy and can only enjoy what is holy. Because He sees us in the holiness of Jesus, He can enjoy and delight in us right now. He does not have to wait until eternity when we are perfected.

When we think about God looking deep inside of us, we automatically think of the failures and flaws He will see.

Paul says, we have...

### **Spiritual blessing #1 – In Christ**

God the Father planned in advance to see us only in Jesus. His look therefore, is one of joy and satisfaction.

What a blessing.

### **Spiritual blessing #2 – Adoption**

**1:5** *In love He planned in advance for us to be adopted as His sons thru Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will.*

The word **adoption** in the New Testament is always the Greek word meaning **placing as son**.

It is never talking about adoption as we know it.

It was part of the Roman ceremony when a child came of age - ready to be declared an adult.

## Spiritual blessing #2 – Adoption (continued)

In the 1<sup>st</sup> century, a Roman child was raised by a slave or employee called a pedagogue, trustee or guardian. Roman parents were not involved in the everyday activities of raising their children. The pedagogue made the rules and the child had to obey them. He had no freedom to choose for himself.

When the child reached the age of 14-17, the father watched for signs of maturity. When he decided there was enough development, there would be a special ceremony where he would declare his child an adult of legal age. This ceremony was called **the placing as son**. It was an action between the father and his **own** child. Both boys and girls had this ceremony - the girls at home while the boys had it in public. (see endnote)

The “**placing ceremony**” involved many important steps.

- > People are there to witness the action.
- > The boy takes off his child’s toga with the purple border (*toga praetexta*) and puts on the *toga virilis* - the toga of manhood. He is so proud that now everyone can see he is an adult. From this point on he has a different relationship to everyone.
- > The ceremony includes a walk to the temple of the gods where he leaves all his childhood toys. It is called *putting away childish things*.
- > During the ceremony, for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, the father calls his boy, *son*. Up to this time he had called him *infant*, *child*, *boy* or by his name. The title of **son** is only given to someone declared an **adult** - *placed as son*.
- > And the boy, only **now** on being an adult, can call his parent, *father*. Before then, he called him *parent* or *sir*.
- > As an adult son, he is now *heir*. He has immediate access to his inheritance. When all the siblings come of age, they are called *joint-heirs*.



Paul refers to this Roman ceremony in many of his writings because he himself went thru this ceremony.

In **Corinthians**, he talked about *putting away childish things*.

In **Romans**, it was only natural to refer to this Roman ceremony.

He says as believers, we have received the spirit of adoption - we have been placed as sons so we can say, *Abba, Father*.

We are heirs of God and joint- heirs with Christ.

In **Ephesians**, he says they are to put off their old self and put on their new self. Because they are now connected to the new nature, everyone should see the change in their life. It should make a difference in all their relationships.

Here in chapter one, Paul says God planned in advance to declare us **adults** in our relationship with Him.

This gives us freedom to choose for ourselves.

We can call Him **Father**. He calls us His sons and daughters.

We can ask for His strength, wisdom and peace because it is part of our spiritual inheritance.

This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> spiritual blessing.

## Spiritual blessing #3 – Sin Forgiven thru the Payment of Jesus 1:7

*In Him we have redemption thru His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.*

The word *redemption* means to *set free by making a payment*.

Jesus made our payment. When we accept it, our sins are forgiven.

## Spiritual blessing #4 – Sealed with the Holy Spirit 1:13

A seal in Paul’s day was a mark of ownership.

A person would go to the marketplace and buy something. If they had no way of getting it home, they would melt some wax and imprint it with a ring or piece of metal that had their identification mark. It meant, *this merchandise is mine. I have paid for it. Even tho it is still in the market place, eventually it will be at my house*. The wax seal said, *This belongs to me*.

When we accepted Jesus’ payment, God the Father gave us the Holy Spirit as a seal. He is saying, *you are Mine; I paid for you. Even tho you are still in the world for a while, eventually you will be at My house. You belong to Me*.

### **Spiritual blessing #5 – The Holy Spirit is God the Father’s deposit or down-payment 1:14**

He is our guarantee, not only that we will get to heaven, but that one day, we will be free from the very presence of sin. This is why the Holy Spirit will never leave us. He is the down-payment that what God started in our life, He will complete.

#### **GOD THE FATHER GIVES US FIVE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS**

He always sees us in the holiness and loveliness of Jesus.

We are placed as sons - declared adults with rights and privileges.

We are redeemed - our sins are forgiven.

The Holy Spirit is our seal to show we belong to God.

He is also our down-payment to guarantee that what God started in our life, He will complete.

### **Because Christ is our Head – God the Father gives us...**

#### **NEW RELATIONSHIPS**

With God

We used to be separated from God; we followed the ways of this world and obeyed Satan - the spirit who works in the disobedient. 2:1-2

Now, we are spiritually alive. God the Father sees us in His presence. 2:5-6

Between Jews and Gentiles.

In the past, Gentiles did not have access to God and did not qualify for His promises unless they converted to Judaism.

Now believing Jews and Gentiles have been joined together in one Body - the Church.

Notice, it is no longer the one body of Judaism - it is the body of Christ.

### **Christ as Head – God the Father gives us blessings and new relationships**

#### **HOW HE GIVES IT**

*For it is by grace you have been saved thru faith. And this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God - not by works so that no one can boast. 2:8-9*

#### **WHY HE GIVES IT** Why God developed this eternal plan.

1. He developed this plan so in the future, everyone can see what He accomplished in our lives.

*In order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 2:7*

2. God developed His plan so in the present, Satan and his angels can see the wisdom of God.

*His intent was that now, thru the Church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms. 3:10*

3. God developed His plan so in the present, others can see our changed lives.

*For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance that we should walk in them. 2:10*

To walk in good works is another way of saying *godly* or *changed lives*.

### **Chapters 1-3 - Christ as Head**

It was planned in advance that thru Christ, believers have spiritual blessings and new relationships.

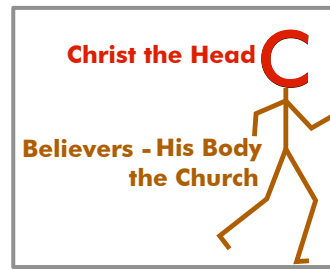
### **Chapters 4-6 - We as members of His Body**

Instruction about our responses to other believers, to society, in the home and against Satan.

### Response to other believers - Ephesians 4:1-16

There is only one Head - Christ

There is only one Body - the Church.



Within the Church are many local churches.

To each local church, God gives a variety of spiritual gifts and gifted people.

Each believer is to use their gift and each believer needs the gifts of others in order to grow in the faith.

God's purpose and role for each local church is to develop maturity in the believers of that congregation.

As each believer and each local church becomes more mature, the Church, the Body of Christ becomes more effective.

### Response to society - the world around us

As we mature in our faith, little by little there will be a difference in our speech, our attitudes and our actions.

For the Ephesian believers, these changes were slow in coming. While God had declared them holy, their daily lives were not holy. Throughout chapters 4 and 5 Paul commands them to **stop** their immorality and stealing, stop their resentment and wrong kind of talking.

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 4:29*

The word *unwholesome* means *bad, unfit for use, destructive*.

More and more in our culture today, our joking involves continual put-downs and derogatory comments.

*Oh, he never does anything right.* There is no problem when it is an occasional joking comment. But when it is continual - over time, it is destructive to the other person.

As members of Christ's Body, we should be saying things that build people up - that encourage and validate them - that inspire them to try even harder.

As Paul reminds the Ephesians about the changes they need to make, he reminds them it is the Holy Spirit who empowers them.

*The verse literally says, Stop being under the influence of wine. Instead, be constantly under the influence - under the control of the Holy Spirit. 5:18*

### Response to those in the home

God's plan is that our lives are changing in how we respond to others.

In the home, Paul talks about relationships between husband and wife, parents and children, slaves and masters. Slaves are included because they were a part of the household - most often equal to an employee.

Paul takes 3 relationships where ordinarily one has power over the other - husband over the wife, parent over the children and master over the slave. He says in the Christian life, because we are all members of one body, that power is to be used as **leadership, not dictatorship**.

To set the stage, he says in 5:21, *submit to one another*.

The word *submit* today, means *to be under the authority or control of another*, such as a soldier under the command of a general. But as Paul describes the Christian life, he is not using a military model, based on power, authority and fear.

He is using the model of Christ and the Church based on a relationship of love, sacrifice and trust.

Our English word *respond* fits this model. Instead of *submit to one another*, the command is *Respond to one another*.

The **HUSBAND** is compared to Christ. *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. 5:25*

Jesus shows His love for us in 4 ways

He sacrificed His life for us.

He provides opportunity for us to develop in our abilities and character.

He gives us guidance but then gives us freedom to choose.

He tells us we are responsible for our choices.

This is the model for the husband.

He provides opportunities so his wife can develop in her abilities and character.

He offers guidance as a leader, but also gives her freedom to choose.

He lets her be responsible for her choices.

Paul continues with a 2<sup>nd</sup> illustration.

*In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. 5:28*

A man is to nourish and care for his wife just as much as he nourishes and cares for himself.

These are the 2 patterns for the husband.

Now the pattern for the **WIFE** - *Wives, respond to your husbands as you respond to the Lord. 5:22*

*Now as the Church responds to Christ, so also wives should respond to their husbands in everything. 5:24*

We as members of the Church respond to Christ because of who He is and what He has done.

We struggle at times, but when there is trust - when we know He only wants the best for us – we think it thru and then respond.

When a husband acts like the Lord – the wife is to respond to him as to the Lord.

Of course she struggles at times. But if there is a relationship of trust - if she knows he really does want the best for her, she will find a way to respond.

This is the pattern. But the husband is not perfect like Jesus. He does not have all the answers.

That is why Paul said at the beginning, *respond to each other*. Marriage is a partnership - a team.

When the husband makes sacrifices for his wife, she is not to keep demanding more and more.

She is to provide opportunities for him so he can develop his abilities and character. This is the ideal.

If one spouse insists on being a dictator or will not give the other an opportunity to develop, then professional help, counseling or mentoring is needed.

If one spouse is destructive to the other or to the children - destructively spiritually, emotionally, mentally or physically, the ones abused cannot stay in the relationship. God never wants anyone to remain in an abusive situation. Our bodies are God's temple - the Holy of Holies. He never wants His temple vandalized or destroyed.

The first relationship in the home is between **HUSBAND** and **WIFE**.

The next relationship is **PARENTS** and **CHILDREN**.

Only children - minors - are commanded to **obey** their parents.

However, even with this command, children are not to obey parents if it is against God's rules.

When children become adults, they are to honor their parents. But honor can only be given to those who are worthy of honor.

The relationship of **MASTERS** and **SLAVES** was often equivalent to the employer / employee of today.

In summary, Paul has said, Husbands, parents and employers - *You are the leaders. Provide opportunity for others to develop; encourage others to participate; give room for others to make choices.*

## **Response against Satan** chapter 6

The problem

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, i.e. it is not against human beings, but against the rulers, against authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm. 6:12*

The words, *rulers, authorities* and *powers* are divisions of evil spirits under Satan.

God has good angels under His command to do His bidding.

Satan has evil angels - demons under his command to do his bidding. Because Satan goes to God to accuse us, he and his angels are in the heavenly realm.

When we accepted Jesus' payment, we were disconnected from Satan's control and are now under the control of the Holy Spirit. Satan resents this and will do whatever he can to get us to re-connect to the sin nature. So Paul explains what we need to do when Satan attacks.

*Be strong in the Lord. 6:10*

The Greek says, *be empowered*, meaning continually draw your strength from Jesus, your Head.



*Put on the full or complete armor of God. Paul means, make sure we are using all the tools God gave us. 6:11*  
*Stand firm - means - actively resist by using your will. 6:14*

In addition we are to once and for all believe with certainty - Jesus **has** already defeated Satan.

We are to use Scripture to strengthen our faith.

1 John 4:4 *Greater is He who is in you - the Holy Spirit - than he who is in the world – the unholy spirit - Satan.*

John 16:11 *The prince of the world now stands condemned.*

James 4:7 *Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

1 John 3:8 *The reason the Son of God appeared is to destroy the works of the devil.*

And last of all, *Be alert, always praying for all believers. 6:18*

As a member of the Body, we support other members thru prayer, so they also can be strong and resist Satan.

After salvation is the Christian life.

Christ is Head.

We are members of His Body.

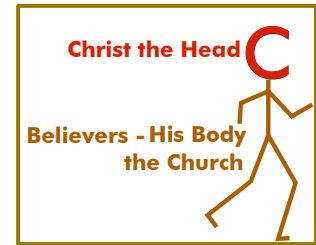
Paul creates this picture so we can see the inter-connection we still have with Christ.

He is not just our Savior on the cross. He is also our Head.

Our physical body is totally dependent on our head in order to function.

So also, we as believers are totally dependent on Jesus in order to live the Christian life.

Thru this picture we can also see the inter-connection we have with other believers and why we need each other.



Earlier in the book, Paul said we are God's *workmanship*. 2:10

The Greek word is *poiema* from which we get our word *poem*. The word originally meant *to make or do*.

Eventually it came to mean, *a work of art*.

The final part of God's eternal plan is that people and angels can marvel at His grace and His greatness.

He also wants them to look at our individual lives and say,

*Wow, look at God's work of art. Look at what God did with his life. Look how God changed her life.*

*What a masterpiece.*

**God's concern is not how we started in life, but how we finish - to be a trophy of His grace.**

## ENDNOTES

### Page 2 Predestination and chosen

There are those who say **predestination** means God decided in the past that salvation is only for some people, but not for others. However, Scripture says,

Jesus' payment was for all. 1 John 2:1-2

Whoever believes can have eternal life. John. 3:15

Jesus wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. 1 Tim. 2:4

All who are part of the Body are **chosen** to have spiritual blessings. The purposes of the blessings are...

...To strengthen our relationship with God

...To bring glory to God

...To fulfill the ministry He gives us

### Page 4 Roman adoption – declaration of adulthood

Information came from David Pawson's tape on Ephesians (pastor in England)

Doris Brooks (former student in my class) in her research on education for her Master's degree and validated from a book of her grandfather

Numerous on-line articles.



## EXTRA INFORMATION FOR THE STUDIOUS AND INQUISITIVE

**Predestination** 2004/2019

### PREDESTINATION HAS TO DO WITH THE DIVINE PARTNERSHIP

In the very beginning when there was only the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Father stated His plan.

He wanted to create us humans so He could enjoy us and we could enjoy Him. But being God, He knew that the ones He created as perfect, would use their free will to rebel so He could not enjoy them. His holiness would require separation. His love wanted us to be with Him. He therefore predetermined – decided ahead of time - He would send His Son to make payment for sin. Jesus would have the world's sin put on Him and He would be separated from the Father. That one-time payment would be made for everyone and available to all.

The moment anyone accepted Jesus' payment, they would become members of God's family.

He predetermined that on our account sheet, the holiness and goodness of Jesus would immediately be transferred to us. He would then only see us in Jesus as holy and without blame. Eph. 1:4

He predetermined to give us the Holy Spirit so we could have power to change and become holy in our daily experience.

He predetermined to see us only as adults and not as children (adoption) Eph. 1:5

He predetermined to provide us opportunities to demonstrate our changes thru good works Eph. 2:10

He predetermined that the changes would make us more like His Son Jesus Rom. 8: 29

He predetermined to use some to minister to the world in special ways

Moses, Paul, Teresa of Avila, Hudson Taylor, George Mueller, Moody, Wesley, David Livingstone, Golda Meir, Fanny Crosby, Billy Graham, John Paul II, Henrietta Mears, etc.

### PREDESTINATION HAS TO DO WITH ISRAEL

He predetermined... to form a special race – the Jews

... to use 3 men thru whom the race would develop – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

... that thru that race, He would - give us His written word, the Bible

- give us Jesus, the living Word

- communicate His salvation message to the world

### PREDESTINATION HAS TO DO WITH A REVELATION OF GOD'S CHARACTER thru a particular person

God is so great, He can use anyone to reveal something of His character, whether they are a believer or not.

**Free will** is involved because the person can choose to co-operate or not co-operate with God.

If they co-operate, they become a vessel of honor - Rom. 9:21. They will share in the honor or glory.

If they do not co-operate, they are a vessel of dishonor. They lose out on the honor.

What is important to see is that they have complete free will to respond or not.

**God's sovereignty** is seen in the fact that whether the person co-operates or not, some part of His character is revealed thru the person.

Examples:

**Cyrus**, an unbeliever who co-operated with God to return the Jews to their land.

God would demonstrate His power thru Cyrus regardless of his choice. If he had refused, he would have lost out on the blessing and not been honored. Because he did co-operate, he shared in the blessings. He was honored and remembered in Scripture.

**Pharaoh**, an unbeliever refused to co-operate with God to free the Jews from Egypt.

God would demonstrate His glory thru Pharaoh regardless of his choice. If he had co-operated, he would have shared in the blessings and have been honored. Since he did not co-operate, he lost out, but God's glory was shown all the more greatly.

## **PREDESTINATION HAS TO DO WITH THE BELIEVER**

We are predestined to be used by God for His glory.

We are predestined for good works.

Predestination has nothing to do with our eternal life - it has to do with our earthly life.

As humans, we have free will to make choices.

We can choose to put our faith in Jesus or to reject Him.

We can make wise choices or foolish ones.

We can choose to do what is right or what is wrong.

We can choose to have a relationship with God or not.

We can choose to live a holy life or an unholy life.

We can choose to co-operate or not co-operate with God.

Our choices are not predetermined.

It is the results or consequences of our choices that is predetermined.

If we reject the payment of Jesus we will be eternally separated from God.

If we accept His payment, we will spend eternity with God.

If we make foolish choices - if we do what is wrong, it will automatically lead to negative consequences.

To put it another way – we will reap what we sow.

A farmer is free to sow any seed he wants.

But once he chooses, the harvest is predetermined.

If he sows wheat, he will reap wheat.

If he chooses corn, he will reap corn.

We are free to make any choice we want - to sow what we want.

But once we choose, the result is predetermined.

Disobedience brings consequences; obedience brings blessing.