

HIDDEN TREASURE (Part II)

II Corinthians 4:6-7

Ephesians 2:8-9 The beginning of our understanding of what God has done for us and in us begins with a spiritual investigation into what happened the moment we accepted His invitation to be saved.

Colossians 2:12 Paul begins to unravel what happened at salvation. One moment we were completely and utterly spiritually dead, (**Eph. 2:1**), the next moment we were raised from the dead in a complete spiritual operation done entirely by God. He took the word of God, (**Heb. 4:12**), and separated us from our sins, (**Col. 2:11**), then because of His grace, mercy and love (**Eph. 2:4-6**), He put us in Christ and made us citizens of heaven. All we did was believe and receive the Gospel of Christ.

The Grace of God – Titus 2:11-14 God's grace is that portion of His character that He wants to shower on all of mankind. His desire is to gather for Christ a “peculiar” group of people to show His great grace toward. **Eph. 2:4** It is rich in mercy and His love is great. **Eph. 4:7** It is exceedingly kind. **Rom. 3:24** His grace brings us justification and redemption. Every treasure comes from God's grace.

Justification – Romans 3:21-24 Justification is a legal, judicial act by a higher authority that is a declaration of innocence. God, the righteous Judge of all mankind has imputed (*an action of God toward us*) His righteousness to us and declares us not guilty of any transgressions or sins and counts us as righteous as Christ Himself. See – **Rm. 5:8-9; 8:1-2; Gal. 2:16; Titus 3:7; Acts 13:39.**

Redemption – Galatians 3:13 All of us were born into the slave market of sin through Adam's original sin. Redemption is the saving work of Christ on the cross where He purchased our freedom. He paid a ransom for us liberating us from the bondage of sin. See– **Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:13-14; I Pt. 1:18-19.**

Regeneration – Titus 3:5; II Cor. 5:17 The Greek words *kaine ktisis* (creation) does not mean you have been renovated, it means you have been re-created (**Eph. 4:24**) brand new. At salvation God put something in us that was never there, a brand new nature, a nature that cannot sin, see (**I Jn. 3:9**.) When Jesus told Nicodemus “ye must be born again” (**Jn. 3:7**) He meant that just the same way when a child is conceived they become a new creation, when we get saved we become a new spiritual creation.

Predestination - (determined beforehand) – Ephesians 1:10-11 In our understanding of this doctrine of predestination, this verse to me is the most important verse for us to study. Notice that our inheritance is based on His purpose and His own will. Predestination goes hand in hand with the doctrine of *Election* which will be covered later.

Romans 8:28-30 Through His foreknowledge He predetermined those of us that would be saved, called, justified, and glorified. Some people would have us believe that we had nothing to do with this.

There are basically only two views on this doctrine of predestination: 1. God knew who would choose to be saved and those are the ones predestined for salvation. 2. The Calvinist belief on this doctrine is that God by His own will predetermined those who He would save and those He would not. The problem with the Calvinist point of view is that it goes directly against God's word and character.

Matthew 28:11; Romans 10:11-13 Jesus calls on all the Jewish nation to come and be saved. Then He makes it plain through Paul that whether Jew or Gentile the door to be saved is wide open to all.

I Timothy 2:1-4; II Peter 3:9 These verses make it very plain that His purpose and His will is that everyone come to Him and His desire is that they repent and be saved.