

## HIDDEN TREASURE (Part III) II Corinthians 4:6-7

**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.

**Luke 5:32; 19:10** The bible is clear that it is God that predestines people but it is also clear that He seeks all people (lost sinners) to come to Him and be saved.

**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.

**Election** - (to pick out, to call, to select, to choose) **Ephesians 1:3-4; Col. 3:12-17; I Thess. 1:4** First it is important to understand that it is God that does the choosing, the electing of believers, (**Rm. 3:10-11**) we would never choose God. It is His will that believers have His best and also it is His will for believers to be at their best. Thirdly, *Election* is the Divine Plan of God specifically, only for believers.

**Romans 3:23; Titus 2:11-12** Divine election begins with everyone on the same level playing field. Just as in the journey of life, marriage, jobs, sporting good teams, politics, etc. we all have opportunity.

**John 16:7-11; Romans 10:17** God does His part by sending Himself to the world in the person of the Holy Spirit. He gave to the world the most precious gifts in His Son and in His word.

**Romans 10:12-17; I Cor. 1:17-24; I Tim. 2:1-4; Tit. 1:1-3** Interaction and choice by mankind is necessary for divine election to take place. God does not take human responsibility (will) from us.

**Matthew 22:1-10, 14; Matt. 10:28; Matt. 23:37; II Pt. 3:9** God desires everyone be saved, but He will never take our free will away from us. Election becomes our choice when we accept His call.

**Believers Spiritual Blessings Now And Then – Inheritance - Hebrews 9:15** At the moment we trust Christ we receive an eternal inheritance because of our instant adoption into the family of God.

**I Peter 1:4** This inheritance is reserved for us in heaven. Maybe the reason it is reserved for us is found in Jesus parable of the Prodigal Son? He wasted his inheritance!

**Colossians 1:12** This eternal inheritance is given to us because of our redemption through Christ and the imputation of His righteousness on us.

**Spiritual Blessings – Ephesians 1:3-5; Phil. 4:19** At the moment of salvation every believer has a vast well of blessings that become available. **Galatians 3:26-28** We all have equal privilege and equal opportunity for these blessings, however, every believer must grow to maturity to get their blessings.

**Galatians 4:1-2; Ephesians 4:11-14** God makes it obvious that He wants us to mature so He can give us responsibilities and blessings that go with our place in Christ, but most believers do not grow.

**Luke 6:38** The blessings of giving. **Matthew 6:31-33** The blessings of basic needs. **Philippians 4:6-7** The blessings of peace. **Philippians 4:19** The blessings of supply. **Lu. 19:15-17** Kingdom blessings.

**Luke 19:21-24** Immature believers may have their blessings withheld by God forever or God has the right to take what is meant for that person and give those blessings to a more mature believer.