

Ephesians. The Identity of the Church that Overcomes.

Part 10: The Sovereignty of God, our Confidence

Houses of Light Church • August 18, 2024 • Pastor Netz Gomez & Ilse Marquez

Focus: Ephesians 1:11-13

And because of God's unfailing purpose, this detailed plan will reign supreme through every period of time until the fulfillment of all the ages finally reaches its climax—when God makes all things new in all of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ. Through our union with Christ we too have been claimed by God as his own inheritance. Before we were even born, he gave us our destiny; that we would fulfill the plan of God who always accomplishes every purpose and plan in his heart. God's purpose was that we Jews, who were the first to long for the messianic hope, would be the first to believe in the Anointed One and bring great praise and glory to God! And because of him, when you who are not Jews heard the revelation of truth, you believed in the wonderful news of salvation. Now we have been stamped with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:10-13 (TPT)

Review:

Last week we learned that Christ is at the center of history. God laid out creation and history itself to center on Jesus, and if that's how the universe was created, our lives ought to be centered in Him as well. The meaning of life is Jesus Christ — we were made to love Him and be loved by Him!

I. An unexpected inheritance (v. 11)

"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will..."

Eph. 1:11 (NJKV)

'Through our union with Christ we too have been claimed by God as his own inheritance. Before we were even born, he gave us our destiny; that we would fulfill the plan of God who always accomplishes every purpose & plan in his heart. ' Eph. 1:11 (TPT)

"In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will" Eph. 1:11 (NIV)

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, Eph. 1:11 (ESV)

II. Who's inheritance is it?

- A. **vs. 11:** *"we have obtained an inheritance," "have been claimed by God as his won inheritance," "we were also chosen," "we have obtained an inheritance"*= **the greek word "κληρώ" (Kléroó) meaning:** To cast lots, choose by lot, assign by lot, assign a portion, receive a share. (according to strong's dictionary" — The way Paul constructed this sentence can mean either that we have an inheritance appointed to us by God or that we are the inheritance God chose for himself. The fact that it has been translated both ways tells us that there is merit to both of these definitions!

a) We have an inheritance in God as sons and daughters

b) He has an inheritance in us because He chose us to be His!

- B. This verse is highlighting that this relationship we have with God goes in two directions — He doesn't only bless us and give us riches, but we bless Him with our lives! Of all that He could have in the created universe, WE are the inheritance He chose for Himself, and He gives us himself in return!

III. How did this all come about? Who is the driving force behind this plan?

"according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will..." Eph. 1:11b

- A. “the counsel of His will” — Paul is highlighting this aspect of God’s decision making to show us precisely where all of our glorious blessings come from. The word counsel implies consideration — God doesn’t just decide on a whim, but he sets forth an intention and moves towards fulfilling it on purpose and with determination.
- B. Notice: we are not God’s counselors. He isn’t asking us how to do things, but actually consults within Himself. It means that ultimately, He is unchange of what is going to happen. He is sovereign, meaning he has supreme authority over everything.
- “...remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose...” **Isaiah 46:9-10**
- “For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.” **Romans 11:36**
- “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.” **Colossians 1:16**
- C. This is what it means for Him to be God. There is none like Him, and what makes him stand out above everyone else is that His counsel remains forever — He fulfills everything He says.
- “Then Job answered the LORD and said: ‘I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.’” **Job 42:1-2**
- “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.” **Matthew 10:29**
- “or truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.” **Acts 4:27-28**
- From something ask insignificant as the fall of a starry to the most important event in all of history — God has sovereignly governed over it all.**
- D. **The sovereignty of God is not cruelty or a form of dictatorship, but rather a glorious reality that allows us to be 100% certain that we are covered and secure in His plan!** We have heard it said, “don’t worry about it, God has a plan for your life!” but what is actually comforting is this truth: God has a plan for the universe and all of history and within it, He decided to include YOU.

IV. So, what’s my part in all of this?

- A. If God makes everything work according to His purpose, then what are we to do? The Bible allows us to understand how we play a part in God’s sovereign plan:
- “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” **Ephesians 2:10**
1. He set out good works and made us for them, but we get to decide if we are going to walk in them.
 2. Because He is sovereign we know he does not *need* our help to fulfill His plan, but He lays out a way for us to partner with Him if we *choose* to do so. These good works have been ready for us since before we were born, and He has given us everything we need to succeed in them.
- B. Paul taught the church of Philippians about this in Philippians 2: “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to **will** and to **work** for his good **pleasure.**” **Philippians 2:12-13**
1. Paul is saying: You have a part to play — work out your salvation! God made it possible for us to choose to do His will and He is working win us so we can actually walk in good works! He produces in us both the desire to do good and the actual work it takes to do it!
 2. What does this look like practically? Paul goes on in Philippians 2: “Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst

of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain."

Philippians 2:14-16

- C. **It takes work, but it is also simple. Our part is to walk in obedience.** When we do this, we will find that the impact is astronomical. As the Lindy Cofer put it in her song, "Simple obedience changes history." Here are some examples:
1. An ordinary woman, a dutch watchmaker who loved Jesus said no to persecuting Jewish people even when everyone around her was doing it. The result, hundreds of Jewish people were spared from the atrocities of the holocaust. This is **Corrie ten Boom**.
 2. A sickly girl from a broken home in the middle of nowhere moved to the city and became a seamstress. She made simple decisions every day to resist the injustice and racism around her, until one day she was asked to give up her seat on a bus. Little did she know she would inspire hundreds of people throughout history. This is **Rosa Parks**.
 3. An average college couple heard about God's passion for unreached people groups. the husband decided to take his friends and go to a tribe no one tried to reach before. They were killed for their efforts. Later on, his young widow went to live among that very same tribe and she got to share the gospel with them. Their lives inspired hundreds of young people to go to the nations. This is **Jim and Elisabeth Elliot**.

They are not different than you and I, they are simply people who said yes to the Good works God prepared for them. Once, I heard someone ask a young woman in missions, "Why did you decide to do this? What lead you to decide to lay down your life in such an extravagant way?" She simply answered, "This is not extravagant. What Jesus did for me, that was extravagant. This is just my response. It only makes sense for me to live this way because He has been extravagant towards me."

How will we respond to God's extravagant love and generosity? Will we choose to walk out our part in His plan?

Reflection Questions:

1. **How do you feel knowing that God is sovereign? How does this change the way you can live your life?**
2. **What is your role in God's plan? How can you respond to Him today?**

Announcements:

1. Important Announcement for HOLY58: take note of the calendar you received with these notes!
2. Friday, August 30th, Movie Night featuring the film Kung Fu Panda IV at 6:00 p.m. You can purchase your ticket at the Passion for Jesus table to support the Heartbeat ministry on a trip through California. We appreciate your support!
3. You're invited to join us for our annual conference, Passion for Jesus! Sept. 4-6. Sign up at heartbeatprayerroom.la.