Identity & Destiny Ephesians 1-3

Part 2



Scripture

Ephesians 1:2-5

2Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world. 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself according to the kind intention of His will,

Romans 8:29-30

29For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified He also glorified.

John 6:35-37, vs.s 39, 42-44, 54,59-61, & 64-65

35...I am the bread of life; He who comes to Me will not hunger and He who believes in Me will never thirst."36"But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe."37"All that the Father gives Me will come to me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out." 39"This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing" **42**They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose Father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven'?" 43 Jesus answered and said to them, "Do not grumble among yourselves." 44No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him"

54"He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

59These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.60Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?" 61But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble?"

64"But there are some of you who do not believe"65"For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

John 17:6, and 9

6"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world"... 9"I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me".

Other Scriptures

- Phil.3:4-5
- Acts 23:6
- 2 Tim. 1:3
- Eph. 1:2
- John 10:26-29
- John 15:16, 19
- Romans 9

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Part 2

Main Points

- The nature of God's revelation of Himself to us is progressive from the Old Testament to the New Testament with no break intended between the two.
 - They fit together like hand in glove.
 - Jesus is the final culmination and revelation of God.
 - o It is completely Jewish in context.
- Grace and peace to you...
 - o Paul starts every one of his books with this phrase.
 - o This is how God feels toward you—He died for you—you are His friend.
- Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu-Blessed art thou O Lord our God--God is the Blessed One.
 - Seek first the blessed One and He will bless you! (Perhaps not in the way you expect.)
 - o Every spiritual blessing—seek God for His sake, not reward. Victory in the spiritual realm. Love, joy, power, peace, self-control...etc.,
- God chose **you**—you did **not** choose Him. (Jn.15:16)
 - o First, He sent His Son to die for you.
 - o Chosen before creation, not earned by deeds of righteousness we have done.
 - o Predestined means God chose you and determined your destination in advance, to be His! He raised a spiritually dead person to life and made you His son/daughter.
- His choice of you was not determined by His knowledge of your eventual choice of Him. He foreknew and fore loved YOU! He planned in advance to make you an object of His mercy that He would bring to Himself as an adopted son/daughter. (Romans 9)
- He didn't choose everyone. Only those granted by the Father come to Jesus, but all chosen will come!
- Your salvation rests on the fact that He pre-loved YOU and chose YOU.
 - Your eternity rests on the solid anchor of His choice.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Knowing that God chose you out of all of humanity is a powerful, life changing fact. How will you be encouraged by this today and now on?
- 2. What spiritual blessings especially energize your faith?
- 3. Are you living a life of continual repentance and communication with Him? What is keeping you from this?
- 4. How can you keep such wonderful news to yourself? Share this with someone today!