

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – January 10, 2010

In The Beginning.....

“...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” – Revelation 13:8

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them. In all the diversity of that which He created, the Bible teaches that the crown of His creation is man. We are intimately familiar with the fact that God gave our first parents a command to refrain from eating fruit from “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” with the prescribed punishment of death for disobedience. This has surely led some to challenge God’s motivation for creation and to see Him only as a dictatorial and vindictive Deity. Apart from further study of the Scriptures, one may easily be left with that conclusion.

However, God’s Word recorded in The Revelation to St. John 13:8 sheds a much different light on God’s motivation and context for His creation. Here we see clearly how greatly God cherishes His creation for He has counted the sacrifice of His Son valid and effective for the sins of the world prior to His act of calling us into being. Here we can clearly learn that even the creating act of God flows out of His love for us and is based on the Gospel message of Christ for us. As the Apostle Paul testifies, “the Law has no power to nullify the covenant.”

God is our loving Creator. He has made each and every one of us. By the power of His Word He has brought all things into being. More than that, He has chosen us to be His people. We are the recipients of His grace in Jesus Christ! It wonderful to know that all our sins are forgiven and that we have been declared righteous because Jesus died and rose again for us.

But what about the millions of people who don’t know what you and I know about Jesus? What God has done for us He also did for them. He wants them to be part of His people too. Our challenge as God’s cherished and chosen is to bring the Good News of Christ Jesus to others. We have

been saved from sin for God's purpose. We are to be about our Father's business. We are to be God's witnesses! Most of us, if not all, are uncomfortable with the idea of evangelism. Like Moses we say, "I am not very good at speaking Lord"! Yet, we have the best news to bring to others and if our Lord wants us to bring that news to a lost and fallen world, for Jesus' sake we respond to the challenge.

What are some things we can do to be His witnesses and bring the love of Jesus to others?

- ❖ Go to church faithfully. This is our first and best witness. When others see how important God's grace is to us they will also want to know more.
- ❖ Study God's Word. The Bible tells us always to be ready to give an answer for our hope. Study of the Word prepares us to meet the challenge of witnessing and answering.
- ❖ Give to missions. By ourselves we cannot reach all the lost, but God blesses our gifts great or small that are given to support the work of outreach, whether it be at home or far away.
- ❖ Pray for Missionaries that God would bless their work in His Word wherever they may be.
- ❖ Invite someone to come to church with you! By demonstrating care for their souls you can show the love of Christ to others and be His witness.

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If we wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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