

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

June 24, 2017

## **GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE**

God has a purpose for you. As a matter of fact, God has a purpose for all humanity. It is what the apostle Paul calls God's *"eternal purpose."* Ephesians 3:11. Because this purpose is God's eternal purpose, nothing can change it or cause it not to be. God spoke through Isaiah saying *"the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?"* Isaiah 14:27. There can only be one answer to this question. Nothing can disannul God's eternal purpose!

The first glimpse in the scriptures of God's eternal purpose is found when God announced that he would make a man. He said, *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..."* Genesis 1:26. This image and likeness of God that Adam possessed was not merely a physical resemblance. I do not know if God has features as we do or not, but I do know that God is a Spirit and he is not defined by fleshly limitations. Adam was a manifestation of God's life, nature, and character in a flesh and bone temple. When he transgressed, Adam lost the likeness of God, but his fleshly features did not change. It was in his heart and nature that he lost the image of God. He was created in God's beauty, but he fell into the serpent's depravity. He had walked in God's holiness, but he plunged into darkness and sin. Yet as great and horrible as Adam's fall was, God's

eternal purpose for humanity could not be disannulled.

The apostle Paul said God “...*saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but **according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:*** 2 Timothy 1:8-10. The eternal purpose of God that was first seen in Adam had been lost. It was more than lost. It was thrown away. It would not be seen again until the appearing of Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ, once again the eternal purpose of God for humanity was made manifest.

When they saw Jesus, John said they “...*beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*” John 1:14. We know that Jesus was full of grace and truth, yet John continues saying, “*And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.*” John 1:16. That which Jesus was filled with is given to those who trust in Christ. God’s eternal purpose for humanity is that we be filled with the same grace and truth that Jesus was full of.

Paul confirms this eternal purpose of God, saying, “*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*” Romans 8:29. This statement is like an architect who in his mind knows what he wants to build, so he takes what is in his mind and draws it on paper for everyone to see. In his mind he “*foreknows*” what the building will be. Then on paper he “*predestinates*” it by specifying the

dimensions, shape, materials, etc. Before anything was created, God knew what his people would be. They would be in the image of Christ. They would be the children of the living God. They would not be sinful because *“in him is no sin.”* <sup>1</sup>John 3:5-6. When God spoke it, it was predestined to be so. This was his eternal purpose, and it could not be disannulled.

The apostle Paul writes to the saints, saying, God has *“chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”* <sup>Ephesians</sup> 1:4. This verse is a description of God’s eternal purpose for his people. Paul described himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ *“...In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”* <sup>Titus</sup> 1:1-2. Before the foundation of the world, God promised himself a people who would be holy and without blame before him in love. They would be filled with the *“eternal life”* of God. This does not mean that everyone will be saved or no one will be damned. It does mean that those who live before him will be exactly what he purposed his people would be before the world began.

The scripture leaves no doubt about what kind of people Christ will present to himself. They will be just as he foreknew, predestined, and chose that they would be before the foundation of the world. Everything Christ came to accomplish was to that end. He died on the cross to deliver you from sin. <sup>Romans</sup> 6:6. He shed his blood to cleanse and sanctify you. <sup>Hebrews</sup> 13:12. He resurrected to birth you into newness of life. <sup>1</sup>Peter 1:3. And he sent the Holy Ghost to clothe you with his glory. <sup>Romans</sup> 8:30. Paul said God did all this and more *“That we*

*should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”* Ephesians 1:12. The very existence of a child of God brings glory to God. It is impossible for any person to produce in themselves that which God has said his people will be. But if you will simply believe this gospel and trust in Christ, he will perform that work in you. After all, the gospel is still, and will always be, *“Christ in you the hope of glory.”* Colossians 1:27.