

He Has a Plan, and is Working That Plan

Ephesians 1:11 is a very interesting passage of scripture. Let me quote: "In Him (that is Jesus Christ) we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will."

Did you get that? Jesus is working all things that are happening in our world today according to the counsel of His own will. In other words, everything that is happening in the world today is being directed and orchestrated according to the will of the Lord Jesus.

Did Jesus know that Satan would disobey, and that He and one third of the angels in heaven would be removed from heaven and sent to earth? Did you think that Satan's move surprised the Lord? I think not.

Did the Lord know that man would disobey and sin in the garden? Did the Lord know in advance that Adam, as the federal head of all mankind, would sin against Him and then produce according to his own kind. That is, that all to be born after Adam would be born as sinners and need a savior? Well of course Jesus knew this.

You see, we would do well to take on a new prospective. That is we should learn to look from heaven toward earth, rather than the other way around. Seeing what is happening on earth from God's view, rather than our own.

Now here is the rub. Before anything had taken place on earth, there needed to be a perfect remedy for all that would go wrong. There had to be judgment and punishment meted out for man's rebellion. Someone had to pay for the disobedience that was about to happen.

So Steven is preaching to the Jews in Acts chapter two verse 22 saying "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know; Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken and by wicked hands have crucified and slain;

Did you get that? Pre-determined by God the Father to become sin for all of mankind, Jesus would take the total punishment we deserve upon Himself. From the beginning, it was God's plan to send His Son Jesus to the earth to redeem mankind. To send Jesus into the world as a man, in order to redeem man, and make all who believe in His redemptive work, sons of the living God.

All of the punishment that is due each of us, Jesus himself took, as He was mocked, scourged, beaten, smitten of God and afflicted. Bloodied and battered He cried out from the cross, "Father, forgive them for they have no idea what they are doing."

Why is it important to know that Jesus took all the punishment that we deserve upon Himself? It is important so that we can understand that everything that comes into our lives is redemptive in nature. That is, everything that is happening to us is meant to draw us closer to Him. Through our faith in Him, we see that He is the strength needed in our time of weakness. He is the light in our time of darkness. He is the peace we need in the time of our greatest turmoil. He is our supply in our time of need.

God permits needs, shortages, and problems to point us to faith in Jesus who supplies all of our needs according to His riches. All of these things come into our lives to point us to our earthly limitations. He makes us dissatisfied with things of this earth in order to bring us into a redemptive process that only He can fill.

We need to look at all of life situations through Gods eyes. He deliberately puts us in situations that He might be glorified in these situations.

Faith may best be described as our turning our sights from our needs to the supplier of those needs, who is already at work supplying those needs. Our job is to look unto Him, praising Him irrespective of our situations, confessing Him before men and awaiting the supply of that need.

We are not orphans. We are not floating around aimlessly trudging through this life awaiting an uncertain outcome.

Rather, we are steadfast, unmovable, and unshakable, looking forward to the time we will either meet Him in the air, or hear Him call out our name saying: "the winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear on the earth and the time of singing of the birds has come. Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away."

He will then say; "well done my faithful servant, enter now into thy reward."

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