

# God's Glorious Gospel

## The Glorious Eternal Plan

Ephesians 1:1-12

Psalm 33; Romans 8:28-39

**GLORIOUS  
GOSPEL**

8 May 2022



### Pressing Forward into 2022

#### Our Goals

- What are we doing to pursue our goals?
- Catechism Questions and Meditation
- Scripture Memorization

### What We Learnt Last Week

- Is TRUTH, brings hope and joy, ushers us into a real relationship with God
- Nothing can hinder God's eternal purpose; it has been unfolding since the beginning of creation, it is unfolding now and it shall continue into the future (Daniel 4:35; Psalm 115:1-3; Numbers 23:19)

### Is the Gospel GLORIOUS? OR Are You Blind? (2 Cor 4:1-6)

- (1 Timothy 1:11) The Gospel is GLORIOUS! "Glory" - "a great beauty, splendour, delight, wonderful, magnificent"

### How glorious is the Eternal Gospel? Exhibited in the plan.

- The Gospel spans from Eternity past to Eternity future (Isaiah 57:15)
- The Scriptures actually reveal a plan and purpose determined by God from eternity and developed throughout history (HIS STORY). His Plan is Perfect. (Psalm 18:30; Isaiah 46:5-7).
- The Scriptures reveal that, before the world began, God determined a plan for man's salvation.
- This entire plan is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, through his life, death, resurrection, intercession for the saints, second coming and judgement.
- From the very beginning, God reveals himself as a choosing God from Eternity Past-History (HIS STORY) e.g. His people, Christ, Abraham, Noah, Moses, Jacob
- He chose Adam to be our representative. (Genesis 1-3)
- He chose Abraham. (Genesis 12)
- He chose Moses. (Exodus 3:10)
- He chose Josiah to be king 300 years before he was born. (1 King 13:1-2).
- He chose Jeremiah to be a prophet before he was formed in the womb. (Jer 1:5)
- He chose His apostles. (John 15:16, 19; 6:70-72)
- He chose Paul before he was born. (Acts 9:15; Galatians 1:15-16)

- The Strong's definition continues: It is used "of God choosing whom He judged fit to receive His favors and separated from the rest of mankind to be peculiarly His own and to be attended continually by His gracious oversight." Consider these questions:
  - 1) O what a wonderful plan it is, that of the Three Persons in One God; made in eternity past in the everlasting covenant of grace! (Heb 13:20-21; 10:5-7)
  - 2) How was it possible that there could be such a plan in which God would punish sin and yet save sinners, in which God would be just and yet "the Justifier of him which believeth in Jesus"? (Romans 3:26)
  - 3) How was it possible that heaven should be that holy, holy, holy place where nothing that defiles can enter in, and yet everyone who does enter in would be a sinner?
  - 4) How was it possible that the eternal God should become Man? (Heb 1:1-4)
  - 5) How could the eternal Son of God become a real man without ceasing to be God? And how could He be a real man and not be a partaker of original sin? (Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:26-31; Luke 1:35; John 1:1,2,14)
  - 6) You see the glory of divine manifold wisdom in the plan of salvation, and you see the glory of mercy in the sovereign choice of the people of God, and that wonderful love that was set upon them, and the determination that they should be saved from everlasting ruin, from sin. (Eph 1:7-12)
  - 7) When you think that the eternal God - Father, Son, Holy Spirit - had no need of any creatures, the eternal God, self-existent, self-sufficient; and yet the glory of the gospel plan was that there might be many who one day should live and reign in glory with God for ever and ever. (1 Peter 1:2)

## **Before the Foundation of the World...**

- Before SPACE, TIME and MATTER there was GOD.
- Everything begins with the MOST-HIGH ETERNAL SELF-EXISTING CREATING GOD. (John 1:1; Isaiah 57:15)
- BEFORE TIME God elected (chose) some to be His special people for all eternity. (Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)
- BEFORE TIME God the Father, entered into a covenant with God the Son and gave His ELECT to His Son to die for. God foreordained the CROSS-before time began. MEDITATE! (John 6:37-40; John 10:27-29; 17:2, 6, 8-9, 11, 24; 1 Peter 1:19-20; Ephesians 3:11)
- BEFORE TIME the Son agreed WILLINGLY to act as the SURETY (Substitute) for God's elect and pay the penalty for their sins. (Hebrews 7:22; 10:7; Isa 53:6; 1 Pet 3:18; Proverbs 8:22-31; Leviticus 25:47-49)
- BEFORE TIME God predestined (decreed) everything that happens in HIS WORLD. (Acts 15:18; Isaiah 41:22-23; 44:7; 45:21; 46:9-11)

## God Chose (v. 4)

- In Ephesians 1:4, Paul tells us that God chose us in Jesus Christ. The Greek word underneath "chose" is **eklegomai** and its primary definition is "to pick out, choose ...for one's self."
- It refers both to "choosing one out of many" and to "choosing one for an office."
- Paul now takes us back in time and past time to "before the foundation of the world."
- Paul takes us back into the eternal counsel (will, desire, wish, plan, purpose) of God.
- "Before the foundation of the world" GOD chose us!
- GOD is ETERNAL and OMNISCIENT! He knows EVERYTHING (including all His works and ways) NOW and has always known everything! (Acts 15:18; 2:23; 4:27-28; Luke 22:22; Daniel 9:24-27)
- Because God inhabits eternity. To God everything is NOW! (Isaiah 57:15)
- Paul makes this clear in his letters
  - (Eph 1:4) God chose us before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.
  - (Eph 1:5) God chose us "according to the good pleasure of His will".
  - (Eph 1:6) God chose us "to the praise of the glory of His grace by which He made us accepted in the Beloved."
  - (Eph 1:7) In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.
  - (Eph 1:9) Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself.
  - (Eph 1:11) God works all things (including our salvation) "according to the counsel of His will."
  - (2 Timothy 1:9) God saved us "according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began."
- Man has no capacity to choose God. (Romans 5:6; 8:7-8; 1 Cor 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-3,5; 4:18; Col 2:13; Hebrews 11:6; Matt 19:24-26)
- Thus, God chooses man! (Rom 8:17; 10:20; 11:4-8 John 6:44, 65; 15:16, 19; Psalm 65:4; Matt 11:27; 22:14; Mark 13:20; John 5:21; Philip 1:29-30; 2:12-13; 1 Thess 1:4-5; 5:9; 2 Thess 2:13; 2 Tim 1:8-10; 1 Peter 2:9; Rev 17:14; James 1:18)
- In God's choosing, he makes it clear that God's choice is not based on ANYTHING in the INDIVIDUAL (Eph 2:8-9; Rom 9:16; 2 Tim 1:9; Titus 3:3-4) but insists that His choice is solely based on HIS will, HIS grace, HIS pleasure, HIS plan, HIS foreknowledge and HIS purpose. (Rom 9:10-24; Eph 2:1-10) See the example of Esau and Jacob. (Rom 9:10-13; Genesis 25:21-23; Malachi 1:1-3)
- God's choice was made before the foundation of the world - before we were ever born! (See Rev 13:8; 17:8; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:1-3)

## **Purpose for God's Choosing**

- For HIS OWN GLORY (Isaiah 42:8; Eph 1:11-12; Isaiah 43:21,25)
- God tells us that we were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. (Ephesians 1:4)
- His choosing was done before anyone did good or evil. (Rom 9:10-11)
- God is eternal and omniscient (He knows all things), and "known to God from eternity are all His works." (Acts 15:18)
- God tells us that He promised eternal life to the elect before time began. (Titus 1:1-2)
- A promise is a covenant! God keeps His promises. (Romans 9:8; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Galatians 3:14-16, 29; Eph 3:6; Hebrews 6:17; 10:23; 1 John 2:25; Deut 7:7-8; Num 23:19, Titus 1:1-2)
- God tells us that whatever HE PURPOSES He does. (Eph 1:9, 11; 3:11; Romans 8:28; 9:11; 2 Timothy 1:9; Isaiah 14:24-27; 46:9-10; Job 23:13; Acts 13:48) And His purpose is "according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself." (Ephesians 1:9)
- God tells us that it was because of "His rich mercy and His great love with which He loved us!" MEDITATE (Ephesians 2:4-5; Deuteronomy 7:7-8)
- God tells us that He "works all things according to His will" NOT man's! (Ephesians 1:11; Romans 9:15, 16, 18; Exodus 33:19; Matthew 11:27)
- We are chosen, predestined, and adopted according to His will and purpose. (Rom 8:28-30; 9:15-18; Eph 1:11; Rom 9:11-16; Philip 2:13; 2 Tim 1:9)

## **Where We are Going in 2022**

- Unpacking this good news from God that began in eternity past, unfolded beginning with Creation, was worked out through all of history, climaxed with incarnation, life, death on a cross, resurrection of the Son of God, and takes us into eternity future to the new heavens and new earth.
- You will need to hear all these messages as each message builds on the one prior.
- Next week Nicholas - God glorified through His Son Jesus Christ.

## **What Is the Only Acceptable Response to the Gospel?**

- Repent - Acts 20:21; Luke 13:1-5; Luke 24:47
- Believe GOD with all your heart (mind, will, and emotions) - Acts 8:37; John 3:18, 36
- Submit to Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9-10; Psalm 2:10-12
- Work - Ephesians 2:8-10; Acts 26:19-20; Titus 2:14; James 2:14-26
- Glorify God for all He has done, is doing, and has promised to do (Psa 115-1-3)
- Be even more diligent to make our calling and election sure." (2 Peter 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:15)