

The Blessing of Election

Daniel 12:3

Life Group Discussion – April 28th, 2019

Past Sunday was our church's 18th anniversary. 18 ago, our church started off with 30 members in Arlington. Now, we have close to 1000 weekly attendees. We have commissioned 96 missionaries as a church. This is solely the work of God.

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them (Psalm 139:16)

God has chosen our church. He has open doors for us and blessed us over the years. In Genesis 12, God "chooses" Abraham to be a blessing to the nations. Abraham was not chosen because of his family roots. His father was a merchant who sold idols in the land of Ur. Abraham was nobody, yet, God chose him to be the father of faith.

What about Paul? He was Pharisee and an expert of the law. He persecuted the church. Yet, God chose him to be a great missionary to change the course of history.

In the same way, we are chosen by God. When chooses His people, He also takes care of them.

⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"— (1 Cor. 2:9)

If we believe that God has chosen us, we must also believe that he has a plan. Moses remained courageous before the Red Sea because he had assurance in God's promise. He knew that God would take care of His chosen people, the Israelites, and lead them to the promise land. Therefore, he was neither afraid of the sea before him nor the Egyptian army behind him.

¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.

¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only

to be silent." (Exodus 14:13-14)

When we know that God has chosen us and He has a plan for us, we can live life with courage.

Joshua, Moses' successor, did not receive any visible signs or audible voices. However, he remained courageous in God's word, trusting in His plan and promises.

He also includes himself as a witness.

¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ² "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. (Joshua 1:1-2)

⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

Joshua fully trusted in God's promises. So he was able to press on with courageous without being shaken by his circumstances.

Abraham, Moses, Joshua... they all remained faithful in the midst of difficult situations because they believed in the promises of God.

However, just because we are chosen, does not mean we have to do anything in life. As chosen people, we must walk in obedience.

Although Abraham was chosen by God to be the father of faith, he still had to walk in obedience. God simply said "go" and Abraham "went." God said "offer your son as a burnt offering" and Abraham rose early the next day to obey.

The Christian life is about obedience. It is not just about building a community with who share same values and religious culture. As believers, we must deny ourselves and live according to God's word in complete obedience.

In some ways, the Christian life seems risky. We need to lay down what we have first in order to gain what God wants us to have. Money, career, and different life choices... we must give up what we want and seek what God wants. When we live with this radical faith, we will see God move in power.

The church exists for the gospel. Christians exist to share the gospel. This is why our church is a missional church. God wants the gospel to be spread through the church. This is why the church exists.

me (Philippians 4:13)

In Christ, we can do all things. It is not by our own efforts or abilities. When we rely on God who gives us strength, we are able to do all things.

Therefore, missions is not something we do on our own. It is something that God does through the church.

18 years ago, out of God's sovereign grace, our church was established. For 18 years, we have faithfully followed after God, being obedient to His will. He is the one who gives us strength. Let us continue to run together with this vision.

Sharing -----

1. God takes care of those He has chosen. Therefore, even when there is a Red Sea before us, we can remain calm and courageous. Share how you have experienced God's protection and guidance in the midst of a difficult situation.
2. In light of our 18th anniversary, share what you are thankful about our church.

I can do all things through him who strengthens