

## Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

November 4, 2018

### Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:1-11

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *Did Christ Die For All Men?* (Exodus 12:12,13)

Blest Be the Tie

### Announcements:

**Next Sunday** we will do a verse-by-verse study of Romans 9, the passage that is used most often to prove that God chooses some people to be eternally damned.

**Assistant Pastor Paul Balbach** will fill in for Dave Stewart in our Adult Sunday School Class next Sunday.

**Midweek Bible Study:** Wednesday night at 7 with Assistant Pastor Steve is postponed for this week.

**Our offering box** is located just left of the kitchen door.

**Pick up** today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone

## **Ephesians 1:3-5** *Are Men Predestinated to Heaven?*

Last week we saw God doesn't choose or "elect" people to salvation, He elects them to service (cf. Rom.9:11,12). This week we introduce the subject of predestination with a passage that mentions election *and* predestination (1:3-5).

But if God doesn't choose men to be saved, why does Paul say He chose us to be holy and without blame (1:4)? It's because the *kind* of service we were chosen to *requires* we be holy and without blame. We were chosen to be judges of angels (1Cor.6:3), that is, *rulers* of angels (cf. Ruth 1:1).

But God would never choose any of *us* to rule His angels (Rom.7:18). Only *Christ* was good enough to replace Lucifer as ruler over the angels. That's why *He's* called "elect" (Isa. 42:1), a word equated there with *service*. As far as Isaiah knew, He was called to bring forth judgment—be a judge—of the Gentiles in the kingdom. The subject of who would judge the *angels* was a mystery not revealed until Paul.

God planned for the Jews to rule the Gentiles *with* the Lord (Rev.19:15,16 cf. 2:25-27; Luke 19:17,19). That's why *they're* called "elect" (Isa.45:4). Christ was God's elect, but they got to be part of His elect by faith in God. Isaiah 45:4 is another verse that equates election to service, by the way, as does Isaiah 65:9, which explains that the Jews will serve Him in the kingdom (cf.65:22-25).

But God would never choose any of the Jews to rule the Gentiles (liars like Abraham and adulterous murderers like David). God could only choose them *in Christ*. He chose Christ to rule the Gentiles, they got to be in Christ when they believed. Similarly, God wouldn't choose us to rule the angels, He could only choose us "in Him" (Eph.1:4). *That's* why He chose us to be holy and without blame. Those who rule for God *must* be just (IISam.23:2,3). The kind of service we're chosen to—that of judging angels—requires it.

We know that God doesn't choose men to be saved because the men in Chorazin died unsaved. Calvinism would argue that that's because God didn't choose them to be saved. But the Lord said they *would* have believed if they'd seen His miracles, so were they chosen or weren't they?

“Predestinated” (Eph.1:5) means to *predetermine* or *fore-ordain* something. Calvinism holds that in the Bible it means men are foreordained *to Heaven*, but Paul says it is to “the adoption” (1:5). Bible adoption came when a father noticed his boy was now a man, and made him his heir (Gal.4:1-7).

This happened to the Lord. He was born God's servant (Isa.53:11;Phil.2:7), so during His life He was a servant. His adoption came when God raised Him from the dead (Acts 13:33,34). That's when God made Him His heir (Heb.1:1,2).

What did He inherit? The Gentiles (Psalm 2:7,8). But we've already seen, *that* adoption was *Israel's* adoption (Rom.9:4). So what's our inheritance, what are *we* adopted to?

Well, the “all things” the Lord inherited (Heb.1:1,2) are the “all things” in heaven and earth (Col.1:16), the thrones in heaven and earth. God's elect in Israel will inherit those earthly thrones, as we've seen, but we're adopted to inherit those heavenly thrones. That's the inheritance we're predestinated to, because that's where the angels live that we're going to rule!

So the thing we're predestinated to *isn't* to go to heaven *as opposed to going to hell*, it's to go to heaven *as opposed to staying here on earth*. That's Israel's predestination.

God “foreknew” those He predestinated (Rom.8:29), meaning He fore-loved them (cf.Amos 3:1,2 cf. Gen.4:1). So is Paul saying God only predestinated the people He pre-loved before the foundation of the world? Yes and no. God pre-loved *Christ* before the foundation of the world (John 17:24), and predestinated *Him* to rule the angels.

When you believed on Him you became part of the Christ whom God fore-loved and predestinated.

To do that, He'll have to make you holy and without blame, or—as Paul puts it in Romans 8:29—conformed to the image of His Son. Someday in glory, *He will!*

# Faith Bible Church

[www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com](http://www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com)

November 4, 2018

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
*Thornton Harrison, Dave Stewart*

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.  
*Pastor Ricky Kurth*

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.  
*Myrtle Harrison*

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.  
*Assistant Pastor Steve Schwieger*

Faith Bible Church  
560 East Sauk Trail  
Steger, Illinois 60475  
708-758-7780

Pastor Ricky Kurth  
414-719-0548 (cell)

Pastorkurth @msn.com