**Eph. 1:3-15 (J.B. Phillip’s translation 1958)**

“Praise be to God for giving us through Christ every possible spiritual benefit as citizens of heaven! For consider what He has done-before the foundation of the world, He chose us to become, in Christ, His holy and blameless children living within His constant care. He planned, in His purpose of love, that we should be adopted as His own children through Jesus Christ – that we might learn to praise that glorious generosity of His which has made us welcome in the everlasting love He bears toward the Son. It is through the Son, at the cost of His own blood, that we are redeemed, freely forgiven through that full and generous grace which has overflowed into our lives and opened our eyes to the truth. For God has allowed us to know the secret of His plan and it is this: He purposed in His sovereign will that all human history shall be consummated in Christ, that everything that exists in heaven or earth shall find its perfection and fulfillment in Him. And here is the staggering thing – that in all which will one day belong to Him, we have been promised a share (since we were long ago destined for this by the one who achieves His purposes by His sovereign will), so that we, as the first who had confidence in Christ, may bring praise to His glory! And you too trusted Him, when you had heard the message of truth, the Gospel of your salvation. And after you gave your confidence to Him you were, so to speak, stamped with the promised Holy Spirit as the guarantee of purchase, until the day when God completes the redemption of what He has paid for us as His own; and that will again be to the praise of His glory.”

Paul further taught the church of Ephesus God’s plan.

**Eph. 3:9-11 NIV**

“…to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was hidden in God…His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

We have a spirit, but our human spirit was dead because of Adam’s sin.

Reality tells us that we are not born in the image of God as in the original creation.

We have a soul made up of a mind, a will and emotions.

**The Bible says:**

Our mind is **carnal** **Ro. 8:7**

Our will is **rebellious** **Isa. 53:6**

Our emotions are **self-centered** and **warped** **Gal. 5:16-18**

All these traits are contrary to the family spirit of God.

So, our spirit needs to be made alive to God and our souls need to be redeemed.

We were created in the image of God, but we lost that image through Adam’s sin of disobedience.

**Jesus said:** “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

If we are to come into obedience to the commands of God, we have to be willing to suffer.

Because our natures are contrary to the nature of God, the process of becoming like Him will cause suffering to our souls.

1. When His will crosses ours, we begin to understand what it means to deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow Him.
2. We must choose to give up our ways, our will, our work, our walk, our words, our worship and our warfare.
3. We must be willing to exchange our sinful nature for the nature of God.
4. We talk much about the baptism in the body of Christ, in water, in the Holy Spirit but not much in the baptism of suffering.
5. There is no way home without allowing the cross to destroy the self-life so that we can receive the family spirit of God.
6. When man is lacking the principle of true revelation, he will seek only that love which benefits him.
7. We need to know more about God than salvation and His benefits for us.
8. We need to understand who God is more important than what He does.

**St. Matt. 10:38-39**

“Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

**Taking up the Cross: Gal. 6:14; Matt. 10:38-39**

**God’s will crosses with our will at the Cross of Calvary, and we choose to give up:**

Our ways

Our will

Our work

Our walk

Our words

Our worship

Our warfare

**We glory in the Cross:**

**Gal. 6:14**

**“But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”**

**Suffering for the cause of Christ: (the fourth baptism)**

**Self-Life denied in the Cross: Matt. 10:38-39**

Jesus’ love for us eventually led Him to Calvary. Where do you think our love for Him will lead us?

**Part 5 Eternal plan individualized: PREDESTINATION**

**Eph. 1:5**

“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will…”

**Eph. 1:11**

“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who works all things after the counsel of His will…”

The church has taught that predestination meant pre-determined election: God has decided who would be saved and who would be damned. Some teach that individuals do not have a choice, that some will go to heaven and some will go to hell.

According to the Bible, predestination is what God planned for you before the foundation of the world.

**Predestination Defined:**

**Proorizo** {pro-or-id’-zo]: predestinate; determine before; ordain 1.to predetermine, decide before hand; in the N.T. of God decreeing from eternity; to foreordain, appoint beforehand.

**From:** pro {pro}: a primary preposition; before; above; above; ago; ever 1 before

**Hosiotes** {hos-ee-ot’-ace} holiness

1 piety towards God, fidelity in observing the obligations of piety, holiness

God’s Eternal plan for us is to be Holy. That is the plan and provision He has made for every individual: to be whole and complete in His love.

**Related words in Scriptures:**

**Jer. 1:5**

“Before I formed you in the belly, I knew you; and before you came forth out of the womb, I sanctified you, and ordained you a prophet unto the nations.”

**Ps. 139:15-16**

“My substance was not hid from You, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.”

“Your eyes did see my substance yet being unperfect; and in Your book all members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.”

**Rev. 3:5**

“He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”

Our names were not written in the Book of Life when we accepted Jesus as our Savior, but they were written there before the foundation of the world!

**Foreknowledge: Prognosis** {prog’-no-sis}- AV- foreknowledge 1 foreknowledge, 2 forethought, pre-arrangement

**Elect: eklektos** {ek-lek-tos’}- AV- 1 picked out, chosen 1 chosen by God,

1a to obtain salvation through Christ; hence Christians are called “chosen or elect” of God

1b the Messiah is called “elect”, as appointed by God to the most exalted office conceivable 1c choice, select, i.e. the best of its kind or class, excellence

**Preeminent:** applied to certain individual Christians

**I Pet. 1:2**

“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:”

**Foreordained: Proginosko** {prog-in-oce’-ko}- AV- foreknow, foreordain, know, know about

1 to have knowledge beforehand, to foreknow; to predestinate: those whom God foreknew so that they would love Him

**I Pet. 1:20**

“Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.”

**Mystery (of God) musterion** {moos-tay’-ree-on} from a derivative of muo (to shut the mouth) AV mystery

1 hidden thing, secret, mystery: generally mysteries, religious secrets, confided only to the initiated and not to ordinary mortals

1 a hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding

2 a hidden purpose or counsel: secret will: of men; of God: the secret counsels which govern God in dealing with the righteous, which are hidden from ungodly and wicked men but plain to the godly

3 in rabbinic writings, it denotes the mystic or hidden sense: of an O. T. saying, of an image or form seen in a vision, of a dream

**Col. 2:2**

“That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and Christ;”

**Rev. 10:7**

“But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as He has declared to His servants the prophets.”

Every person who would ever be born was in God’s mind in eternity when He initiated that dream. Our names were not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life when we received Jesus as our Savior.

They were written there before the foundation of the world. From eternity God willed that no person on earth should perish. He recorded their name.

**God said to Jeremiah,**

“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.”

**Ps. 139:16**

“All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.”

**Part 6 Eternal plan imaged: CREATION/FALL OF MAN**

**Questions to be considered:**

Why did you have to be saved?

What happened to you when Adam fell?

Why aren’t we in the Image of God now?