

In the Beginning...

- Our beginning... the material creation, male and female in his image and likeness
- What was it like before this beginning?
- *Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God Ps. 90:1-2*
- How did God live and what did He do?
- Intriguing question with no answer, Why ask it?
- It is important to understand that prior to this creation, God has a plan and a purpose.
- Nothing was an afterthought all was planned

An Amazing Fact about the Gospel

- *Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began 26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures **made known to all nations**, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith Rom 16:25-26*
- The gospel contains the mystery kept secret since the world began.
- It reveals a portion of what God was doing *before* the world began.

God Wanted This Revealed

- *the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in **God who created all things through Jesus Christ**; 10 to the **intent** that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to **the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord**, Eph. 3:8-11*
- God's Eternal Purpose:
- God created all things through Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ would build and purchase the church.

Our Salvation and Calling

- God, who **has saved us and called us** with a holy calling, not according to our works, but **according to His own purpose** and grace which was **given to us in Christ Jesus before time began**, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our **Savior Jesus Christ** 2Tim 1:9-10
- God takes us back to “before time began.”
- according to God’s own purpose and grace
- Grace was given to us in Christ.
- Even eternal life was promised to us then:
- *in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, **promised before time began**, Titus 1:2-3*

The Purpose Expounded

- *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to **those who are the called according to His purpose**. 29 For whom **He foreknew**, He also **predestined** to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be **the firstborn among many brethren**. 30 Moreover*
- ***whom He predestined**, these **He also called**;*
- ***whom He called**, these **He also justified**; and*
- ***whom He justified**, these **He also glorified**. Rom 8:28-30*

The Purpose Expounded

- *He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having **predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to **the praise of the glory of His grace**, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. Eph 1:4-6*
- *being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, Eph 1:11*

The Awe, Reverence, Respect

- Remember the former things of old, ***For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure Isa 46:9-10***
- What Israel could only see dimly we now see clearly.
- God in eternity set forth His eternal purpose.
- He would create all things through Jesus Christ
- He would redeem all things through Jesus Christ
- He would fulfill all His purposes in Jesus Christ

Source Agency Purpose

- *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! **How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!** 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?" 35 'Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" 36 For **of Him** and **through Him** and **to Him** are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. Rom. 11:33-36*
- Of Him – Source of All things
- Through Him – Agency and Means for all things
- to Him Purpose and Reason for all things.

The Details of the Eternal Purpose

- God, who *has saved us and called us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but **according to His own purpose** and grace which was **given to us in Christ Jesus before time began**, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our **Savior Jesus Christ** 2Tim 1:9-10
- Not According to our works.

Why Not According to Our Works

- *And you He made alive, who **were dead in trespasses and sins**, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, **fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind**, and were **by nature children of wrath, just as the others.** Eph 2:1-3*

Why Not According to Our Works

- For when **we were still without strength**, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when **we were enemies** we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Rom 5:6-11

According to His Purpose and Grace

- Thus He based His purpose on His own good will, kindness and desire to bless us with gifts and blessings we don't deserve.
- This was the “*grace that was given to us before time began,*” and reveals that He still wants all to be saved and not one to perish!
- It was all because, “*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* (Jn. 3:16).



How He Chose us in Him

- *But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. 2Th. 2:13-15*

Jesus Explained How

- *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.” “It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.” Jn. 6:44-45*
- God’s purpose and grace needed a drawing power to bring those dead in trespasses to Him.
- This drawing power came through what God taught in *“the gospel.”*
- Everyone who hears, learns and fully accepts what the Father revealed and demands in the gospel is drawn, comes to Him and is called.

As God Designed His Purpose

- God foresaw all the obstacles.
- Satan, Sin, Rebellion, Grief, Sorrow, Eternal Loss
- God made plans for each of them.
- His true goal in all of this:
- *desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1Tim. 2:4*
- *not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2Pet. 3:9*
- The gospel is the truth we must know
- The gospel brings us to repentance.