

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Chosen: Walking in Light of God's Calling for You

I. THE TWO GREATEST HUMAN NEEDS

II. GOD HAS DONE HIS WORK FROM LONG AGES PAST

¹⁶ 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)

¹ But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. (Daniel 12)

⁴ ... even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will (Ephesians 1)

⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship [the Beast], everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. (Revelation 13)

⁸ And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the Beast, because it was and is not and is to come. (Revelation 17)

III. WHAT GOD'S CHOSING (ELECTION) MEANS TO YOU

God has chosen you from among a host of others to know and do his will.

¹⁰ And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these" ... ¹² And he sent and brought [David] in.... And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." ... And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. (1 Samuel 16)

God has chosen you that in the midst of the difficulties of this world you may accomplish his purposes.

¹ Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by. ² I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me. (Psalm 57)

God has chosen you that by holy living you should be the light of the world.

⁸ ... for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. (Ephesians 5)

God has chosen you for salvation that you might bring him great glory.

¹ As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. (John 9)

IV. HOW OUGHT WE TO RESPOND TO THIS WONDERFUL TRUTH?

Looking back at the past:

- Thankfulness / Humility / Joy

⁹ [God] saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, ¹⁰ and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1)

"...OUR ELECTION IN CHRIST, IS FULL OF SWEET, PLEASANT, AND UNSPEAKABLE COMFORT TO GODLY PERSONS, AND SUCH AS FEEL IN THEMSELVES THE WORKING OF THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, MORTIFYING THE WORKS OF THE FLESH, AND THEIR EARTHLY MEMBERS, AND DRAWING UP THEIR MIND TO HIGH AND HEAVENLY THINGS, AS WELL BECAUSE IT DOTHS GREATLY ESTABLISH AND CONFIRM THEIR FAITH OF ETERNAL SALVATION TO BE ENJOYED THROUGH CHRIST AS BECAUSE IT DOTHS FERVENTLY KINDLE THEIR LOVE TOWARDS GOD...." (Article XVII)

Experiencing God in the present:

- Work out your calling daily

"... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Philippians 2)

"FURTHERMORE, WE MUST RECEIVE GOD'S PROMISES IN SUCH WISE, AS THEY BE GENERALLY SET FORTH TO US IN HOLY SCRIPTURE: AND, IN OUR DOINGS, THAT WILL OF GOD IS TO BE FOLLOWED, WHICH WE HAVE EXPRESSLY DECLARED UNTO US IN THE WORD OF GOD." (Article XVII)

Looking forward and building the Kingdom:

- Share the Gospel with all who will listen

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Revelation 7)