



SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP: August 31, 2003

Welcome back! As many of our groups are starting up again, and summer comes to a close, we can expect to see an influx of new members joining our Small Groups. Is your group ready to meet the need? There will be a *mandatory* training for all new and potential leaders on **Sunday, September 28 from 3:00 – 4:30 in Casa Real**. For more information, contact melissak@therocksandiego.org or ext. 242. All Small Groups must be ready to multiply the first week of October!

TITLE: “Salvation Part 8, Choose and be Chosen”

MEMORY VERSE: “For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.” **Ephesians 1:4**

SERMON REFLECTIONS

- 1) **Ephesians 1:4-5**, “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will...”
 - a. “He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.” Define predestination in your own words. How would you explain this to a non-believer? (**Is 44:2, Mt 12:17-19**)
 - b. “That we should be holy and without blame.” Define “holy and without blame.” It is possible to be holy and without blame without Jesus? (**2 Pet 3:14, Eph 5:27**)
 - c. “Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ.” Is this fore-ordination? What does it mean to be adopted into a family? What rights does that give you in that family? If you were adopted into the family of a king, would you act differently than if adopted into the family of a typical family? Knowing your position as a “son” in the family of God through Christ, how should you change the way you live your life? (**Rom 11:21-24**)
- 2) In the end of the sermon, we discussed some things that are pre-arranged for those who God predestined.
 - a. **Eph 1:3** – We have every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly places. This is huge! Do you feel like you have this today? Why or why not? (**Ps 24:5, Ps 128:1, Malachi 3:10, 1 Pet 3:9**)
 - b. **Eph 1:4** – We have a purifying relationship. How does God see us once we are saved? Do you realize your sins are forgiven, or is the enemy beating you down with guilt? (**Is 1:18, Ps 51:7**)
 - c. **Eph 1:5** – We are adopted into the family of God through Jesus. See question 1-C above. (**Rom 8:14-16**)
 - d. **Eph 1:7** – We have redemption through Christ. (**Lev 25:51, Ps 26:1, Rom 8:23**)
 - e. **Eph 1:10** – We have an eternal Inheritance. What is it? Can you lose it? (**Heb 9:15, Lk 15:11-32**)
 - f. **Eph 2:8** – We are saved by Grace? What did you do to earn it? (**2 Tim 1:9, Acts 15:11**)
 - g. **Eph 2:10** – God has good works for us to do. How do you know what to do? (**Matt 5:16, Acts 9:36**)

CLOSER WALK

- 1) **1 John 2:16** refers to, “all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.” What are some examples of these in your life today? Once you have acknowledged these things, what are you going to do about them?
- 2) In **3 John 2**, John is praying that others “... may prosper in all things and be in health...” How does this compare to **Matthew 19:16-24**? Are we called to financial prosperity or to sell everything and give it to the poor? Is there something other than material wealth that you are choosing to hold on to instead of choosing God?
- 3) Read **Jude 9**. How should you apply this verse to the spiritual warfare in your life today?

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”
1 Thessalonians 5:11