



Daily Devotional

Judging-Ephesians 1v7-12

1. Opening

We are to receive the Word of GOD by the Spirit, so I strongly urge you to pray before you receive the Devotional. Let Christ take the lead in your Spiritual Development.

Watch on YouTube at: https://youtu.be/vx_T_4cnCpk

Introduction

Today we continue looking at Ephesians 1. But, at first this morning, I did not know where to go with this. So, I waited on the LORD.

In the devotional section of this document, I give you the message as I received, raw and sincere.

2. Scripture Text

Ephesians 1:7-12 KJV

[7] In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; [8] wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; [9] having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: [10] that in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: [11] in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: [12] that we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

<https://bible.com/bible/1/eph.1.7-12.KJV>

3. Devotional Reflection

Friends, I am having one of those mornings again. This is the title I got for today. This is where I was to continue reading from where the devotional note ended yesterday. And this is the additional text I was given to put here, from the verse of the day...

1 John 3:16-18 KJV

[16] Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. [17] But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? [18] My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

<https://bible.com/bible/1/1jn.3.16-18.KJV>

But what to write here, besides this, I have not received, yet.

We know what true love is, just like John writes in his epistle, because Jesus suffered and died on the cross for us, that we may live, even receive the eternal inheritance with Christ, when He returns in all His glory. I know, for some it seems a distant thing, a foreign promise of a hidden

time to come, but it speaks of the moment of our transfiguration, when we shall be changed in a moment to be with Jesus Christ as He is and where He is. That moment of transition, for most, comes at the moment we close our eyes to "sleep in Christ" (as Paul explains it) and our next awakening is in the presence of Christ Jesus. But, as Paul also writes, not all will die, but some will remain alive at the return of our Lord Jesus, and that is where he explains, the dead in Christ will rise first, and we who are yet alive will be caught up with them to Christ. This is the "previously ordained" part that is by the Love, Mercy and Grace of GOD, predestined from before the foundations of the earth, when the Names were written in the Book of Life. But all that, friends, is GOD'S business, not mine. Yet, I do believe it will be as it has been reported to us by the Word of GOD.

Paul delivers this news to us, this good news, with a flare of words of great understanding. It is an inheritance, by the will of GOD for those who trust in Christ first. What does, "trusting in Christ first" mean? Is it for the early disciples of Christ and His apostles, like Paul alone; or for those that trust in Christ first, of all things, placing Him as the cornerstone of our lives? For me, that is GOD'S to judge, and we know that He gave all that authority to Jesus Christ. There is wisdom to be found in the statement, "in the dispensation of the fullness of times," in that, even that is in His hand not ours, when all will be gathered in Jesus Christ. And when we read "all," it is written "all things." It's GOD'S business, I simply believe.

All these things are good to have knowledge of, even the foreknowledge we received from the Holy Spirit, but what is set apart for the day we are living in, is the things of this day and all its complexities, and that is what John writes about in this section of the scripture set apart for today. That we ought to lay down our lives for our brethren. What else does it speak to but to stand in service for the benefit of one another? And yes, if need be, lay down our own lives for the sake of another. But we can start with that in laying down the self-elevations, that love of self and all its fleshy desires. Lay that down for the Kingdom of GOD, of which we know that Jesus Christ will rule and reign over. And we, with Him, joint-heirs.

In judging, we should be equipped to judge what is portioned for our current day. Yes, we speak of the Hope of things to come, but we cannot neglect what is divided into this day, for we have a calling to care for all in all, by the Love of Christ by which we were saved. Yes, if it is to feed, then feed; if to carry, then carry, for our duty is in this moment and the love of Christ to be shown for His Glory, moment to moment, day by day, unto the instance of our redemption. So, James wrote, faith without works is dead. Our judgment at this time is not to condemn, but still the same as what that of Christ was when He was still with us in the flesh, to save, to help, to heal, to give comfort in times of distress. Not to sit on warm benches and drive in fancy cars, or heaven forbid, fly in private planes bought from the charity of the poor. Not that I say you cannot have all those things, but it should not be your "savior" it should not be your pride. Remember what Christ said about the rich, and question yourself, in what way are you rich? What is it that can separate you from GOD, by your own choice to walk away and withhold. Paul writes that we should work for one another's benefit. Where is that in common society? Oh, that, in judging, is rare my friends.

Now still, we may be far from perfect, yet we must strive for it. Christ died so we may live, becoming that living sacrifice for Him on earth. Our arms are the arms that reach to comfort and embrace our wallets, the funding for the relief of the poor. We must take up our cross and follow Christ. Can I reach all, no! But, when we are united in Jesus Christ, we can reach many. When the task is left to one in the community, that brother or sister is overburdened by the inactivity of "benchwarmers." Shall we forget **Matthew 25:40**?

In judging, within ourselves, as to what is good to do, should we not have as part of our equipment a discernment of spirits, and divide the Word rightly? Since our verse of the day came from **1 John 3:16**, with the expansion of it that we made, should we not look at **John 3:16** and make an expansion there too?

John 3:14-18 KJV

[14] And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: [15] that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. [16] For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. [17] For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. [18] He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

<https://bible.com/bible/1/jhn.3.14-18.KJV>

So, what is predestination then? Because **Jude** does speak of another type of predestination. And then I remember the Words of Christ that we will know them by their fruit. So, as we looked at **Ephesians 1** yesterday, the qualifier is, "in Christ," just as we read here in **John 3** in just the few verses around the very famous **John 3:16**.

Do we stand in self-service or in service to Christ? Maybe now, the verse of the day will make a fuller impact, even alongside our look into Ephesians 1.

4. Verse of the Day

From the YouVersion Bible App

1 John 3:16 KJV

[16] Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

<https://bible.com/bible/1/1jn.3.16.KJV>

Note on the Verse:

The Verse of the day was expanded and incorporated in the devotional note.

5. Closing Paragraph

Judging is also in determining what is good and evil, right and wrong and finally, what we should lay our hands and efforts to, on this day.

Selah, Shalom

6. Resources

Playlists:

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Find playlists at: <https://soundcloud.com/houseofbread4u/sets>

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