



Lesson 9

"What do I get out of this?"

Romans 3:1-8

Teacher Beth Seifert

© Naomi's Table 2014

Read Ephesians 1:3-14. We're going to break this down verse by verse today so hang in there.

According to verse 3, what have we been blessed with?

What types of things would fall under this? (Hint: would they be temporal or eternal? What specific things would they NOT be? Work backward from there.)

According to verse 4, who chose whom?

When did this choosing happen?

Knowing who chose whom, why should that excite you or bring you comfort or assurance?

According to verses 5-6, what did God predestine us for?

According to what purpose was this done?

We were chosen to be His before the foundation of the world; *that's* what gives us our value and worth. The Creator chose us; if He chose us, can He lose us?

Why or why not?

According to verse 7, what do we have through Christ's blood? (Two things)

Was this grudgingly given to us?

How was it given?

According to verse 8-10, what did God lavishly give to us?

Where was this set forth?

What His plan for the fullness of time?

Pause there for a second. We have knowledge of the will of GOD, which He set forth in Christ! We have access to that mystery; that plan of God! That was lavished upon us, not given with a hard heart!

What have we obtained in verse 11? Notice that we have *already* obtained that; it's not just in the future. (The New Testament was written in Greek and when the Greek writers wanted to say something about the future that was so sure it couldn't be changed, they would say it in past tense. Our future is so secure in Christ, that it is that "past tense" here; we already have our inheritance. For sure.)

Why were we predestined?

Was it because of our own desire?

According to verse 12, why was this done?

Keep in mind, God *does* want glory and praise and honor. We humans have a hard time with that, picturing God as selfish, because we humans are selfish. Yet, it is right, good that we should praise the creator. He deserves our praise, when no one else does.

Looking at verse 13-14, what is the process by which we are sealed? (Two steps)

What are we sealed by?

What is a "guarantee" in terms of buying a house? (Look it up if you need to.)

In the same way, God sent His Son to buy us for Him eternally and we were given the guarantee of the Holy Spirit. The transaction is already finished, we're just waiting for Him to come and collect His purchase.

Read Matthew 20:1-16. Did the workers who came in the morning argue about their wages *in the morning*?

How often did the owner of the vineyard go out to find workers?

What did the owner do when evening came (verse 8)?

What did those hired at the eleventh hour receive?

Look at verse 10. The workers hired first expected they would be paid more after watching the other workers get paid. Where did this expectation come from?

Why were they, then, upset?

What was the reply of the master?

Do you see how we can be like those workers hired first when we begrudge new believers of the same benefits and understanding that we have?

Who is it that hands out the inheritance?

Do we counsel Him in that?

Read Matthew 3:8-10. What kind of “fruit” should we be “bearing”?

Why does Jesus discount the Jews’ reliance on being children of Abraham? What happens to the trees that do not bear good fruit?

As you spend time with God today, keep in mind the promises that you have in Him. He has bought you with the blood of His Son, chosen you from before time began, and has even given you a guarantee of His choosing of you in the Holy Spirit! He *is* fair and just and you will not “miss out” on any inheritance that is yours. Ask God to help you to show grace and encouragement to new believers, welcoming them with joy instead of holding them at arms length.