

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by

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“And be found in HIM, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith” (Phil.3:9)

Dearly beloved in Christ, called by God the Father into the fellowship of the saints in hope, what is it to be found in HIM? Oh! To be found in HIM by the divine operation of the Spirit of God The Almighty, is a miracle of God!

Those who are called as the elect of God down through the ages of time, and caused to respond to the divine call of the good shepherd, are most assuredly blessed among the mass of the human race. Oh! To be found as one who was lost and wandering around in a state of absolute and total depravity is in itself a supernatural work apart from any assistance or effort of the lost and undone sinner. It appears to me (IMHO) that those found in Him are, in time, revealed that it was not because they had some sort of acceptable righteousness within themselves that made them attractive to God, but that God the Father saw something far superior within the makeup of the heir of free and sovereign grace.

He saw His own beloved Son’s righteousness within the His elect children, predestined and determined before the foundation of the world, being ordained, appointed and chosen to be the divine witnesses of God’s Spirit power; transforming mortals made of mere dust into new creatures, born of His Spirit, yea, even those called into a path which they knew not, by a new and living way; Christ awakened those from being dead in sin, and quickened them, making them alive by the might of His power, born again into the kingdom of Gods dear Son whereby we call out “Abba Father,” because we are the sons of God. For only those who be of God shall know and recognize who their true spiritual Father is. This sovereign work of grace is only manifested by the faith of Christ, which is a gift of God, not of works lest any man shall boast. Grace and faith, being both gift and fruit of the Spirit, eliminates the creature from any means or ability to call upon the God of the scriptures, to whom

they, by nature, were alien and walked in the darkness of sin under depravity's dread curse.

Jesus said, "I have come to **seek** and to **save** sinners." Is He a failure? Has He ever failed in seeking and or saving all whom the Father has given him? Can any besides those chosen of the Father and given to the Son be saved? Many say in sincere prayer (in ignorance of the scriptures) "God save the world of sinners, for we know you do not desire any to perish, but have everlasting life." If God desires for the entire world of mankind to be redeemed, **Christ has become an ultimate failure!** For the scriptures say, "His name shall be called **Jesus and He shall save HIS PEOPLE from their sins.**" The key to the text is **HIS PEOPLE**; who are these people to whom the scriptures refer? Is it natural Israel? If so, Christ has, again, become a failure; for millions have perished among the lineage of Israel who rejected Christ and the gospel He preached, "For He came among his own, and His own received him not." So, that rules out the fact that Jesus **did not** come to redeem and bring salvation to all of natural Israel. Yet, there is an **Israel of God**, which was not Israel. Is that not what Paul said? The **Israel of God** in this New Testament, New Covenant dispensation are those chosen in Christ out of every tongue, kindred and nation of people. These have been given the **seed** of Abraham, which is manifested by faith, the fruit of Spirit. "For Abraham believed God and it was accounted unto him for righteousness," Abraham believed God because God **caused** Abraham to believe and, unless God by sovereign mercy **cause** you to believe, ye shall perish in your sins.

The scriptures express through Isaiah, "**I was found by them which sought me not: I was made manifest unto them that ask not after me,**" Paul said, "**What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for: but the ELECTION hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded**" (Rom.11:7).

True Israel is a Jew "which is one **inwardly**: and circumcision **is that of the heart**, in the spirit, and not in the letter: whose praise is not of men, but of God" (Rom. 2:29). Therefore, the true Jew, and the genuine Israel of God, are those who make up the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, by new birth through the divine operation of our God's free and sovereign grace.

Oh! Blessed be God our Father, who, by determined and decreed providence, has chosen a people for his name's sake and the glory of His praise. For apart from **FREE GRACE** where would this sinner be? If not for predestined mercy and being ordained heirs of God's eternal love, we would be hopeless and left without a redeemer. Yet, God, by divine choice and appointed love towards **some of the mass of depravity**, has chosen some as trophies of his love and grace. Whereas others have been determined to be vessels **fit for destruction**, and all made by one Potter as it has pleased HIM. For our God is in the heavens and doeth whatsoever he pleaseth, and none shall stay His hand, for He shall fulfill ALL His purpose for the glory of His praise.

Respectfully submitted, Lord's Day evening February 26, 2012