

# The Gospel Herald

---

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

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS  
by  
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

*“But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth”  
(II Thess. 2:13).*

*I am blessed with the doctrine that is set forth in the above text. Paul expresses his thankfulness to our Almighty Father for the fellowship in the truth of the brethren, as the beloved of our Lord.*

*Then the apostle determines the CAUSE of this sweet fellowship, Because God hath from the beginning CHOSEN YOU: Oh! The divine elective love of our God that has been set upon the chosen race of the sinful lot of mankind. Having ordained, appointed, decreed, and elected a people predestined from the beginning of the world to be his church, which His own Son has purchased with his precious blood.*

*These heirs of sovereign grace have been chosen to salvation, even divinely delivered from their sins by NO act of the will nor efforts of the creature, but THROUGH the sanctification (setting apart) of the Spirit and BELIEF of the truth. Dear brethren, notice the sequence of our Lord’s work of salvation, first, we that are blessed to believe, were CHOSEN to such end. Then by the supernatural operation of “being set apart” through the new birth by the Holy Spirit, we are caused to believe the truth as it is in Jesus by sanctification of the Spirit.*

*What part has the lost, depraved, sinner assisted in this glorious operation of God's so great salvation? You will find NOTHING for which man can take any credit or glory before the Almighty who inhabits eternal heaven.*

*Without the sanctification of the Spirit's work in the chosen believer, one could not believe the truth; for ONLY when the Spirit of God himself indwells the creature in the spiritual new birth can one HEAR with HEARING EARS and SEE with SEEING EYES the kingdom of God's dear Son and be blessed with the joyful noise of the Gospel Good News.*

*Since man by nature is dead in every spiritual aspect, only the quickening of the Spirit brings the sin-cursed dead into the realm of "Spirit life." Jesus said, I am the RESURRECTION and the LIFE; He that believeth in me, though he be dead, yet shall he LIVE" (John 11:25).*

*May we as brethren (and sisters) be blessed to thank our God for each of you which have demonstrated by your life and profession, being chosen of God into the sweet fellowship of His sovereign mercy and grace wherewith He has loved us with an everlasting love that never fadeth, and given us that blessed hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ, the Captain of our salvation and Saviour of our souls.*

*June 18, 2007*