

SESSION 15: CHOOSING (pt 9)

Called ♦ Chosen ♦ Appointed

God calls all of us, but according to scripture, few are actually chosen for the work of His kingdom. He can only choose those who are *faithful* and *fruitful*.

14 “For many are called, but few are chosen.” (Matt 22:14)

1. Chosen because of faithfulness
2. Chosen because of fruitfulness
3. Chosen because of God’s covenant
4. Chosen because of a willingness to change

A. Chosen because of God’s Covenant

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.

You are chosen by grace, not by “works.”

Let’s look at the differences:

Work: earned

Grace: gift

Work: limited

Grace: unlimited

Work: we exalt us

Grace: we exalt God

GRACE: Through grace you enter the presence of God with love and confidence. Grace shifts your eyes to look at God, not yourself. Remember, you are a son and daughter of the Father. He looks down on you and loves you - that is the grace of GOD!

WORK: The old covenant was law based and teaches us to earn blessings. Law will always cause you to focus on your faults. Law will always cause you to live in guilt and condemnation. Any mentality of guilt and condemnation is of the law, and not of grace.

Remember these 2 practical comparisons:

1. The law will cause you to always live in “the courtroom of God.”
2. Grace will always cause you to live in “the living room of God.”

We are saved by grace so if you will rely on grace, you will live a victorious life. Grace brings freedom to you - Law enslaves you. God sets you free. It is not by your own strength, but His.

Grace brings conviction, resulting in repentance and forgiveness. Law brings condemnation, resulting in guilt and bondage.

When we truly have an understanding and a revelation of His grace, we will serve Him out of a deep love and reverence. This produces humility in us that positions us for Him to choose us for the work of His kingdom.

B. Chosen because of a willingness to change

- Humble
- Willing to change
- No pride
- No rebellion

God will never allow rebellion if you are in a leadership position because rebellion is witchcraft.

“For rebellion *is* as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness *is* as iniquity and idolatry.” (1 Samuel 15:23)

Timothy was humble and submissive to the person in authority over him, Paul in this case. He surrendered to Paul’s leadership and requests. He was willing to change. He could have refused circumcision by claiming freedom from the law, but he respected Paul and his authority. He **yields under authority** = SUBMISSIVE SPIRIT

“Paul wanted to have him (*Timothy*) go on with him. And he took *him* and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.” (Acts 16:3)

Here we see a situation where Paul, as the leader, is asking something very difficult from Timothy. What was Paul’s motive though? Was he doing this out of some kind of power trip or to prove something that benefited him or his ministry? No, his motive, his request was all kingdom minded. He wanted to make sure that they removed any possible barriers that could make it difficult for the Jews to receive the message of the gospel that Timothy would be bringing.

...."because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his (Timothy's) father was Greek." (Acts 16:3)

1. Acts 16:2 Timothy was well spoken

- ☐ he was proven by the church and leaders even in the surrounding cities

2. 16:1 Timothy was a disciple

- ☐ You have to be committed to the process. It takes time to be disciplined. It took Timothy 6 years. God is dealing with things in you because He knows it will be needed in the future for you to fulfill the calling.

3. Timothy overcame personal issues

- ☐ His family condition was challenging- mixed marriage (father was greek, mom was a Jew; his dad worshiped Zeus, His mom worshiped God) This created a reputation throughout the community that was well known by people. (Because of this Paul wanted to circumcise Timothy). Timothy knew how to overcome his problems.

This shows:

- **a willing heart**
- **submission**
- **teachability**

You have to learn how to overcome your personal issues. This will require you to have a heart that is willing to submit to God's authority in your life, yield to Him, learn what He is asking of you and make the **change**. Timothy allowed Paul to circumcise him, even when it was very painful. Change can feel painful, but it is necessary to yield to God and the culture of His kingdom if we want to be chosen for His work.

Watch your heart throughout this process. This is very important. Remember, everything always comes back to the heart.

You can obey God, and not be submissive, but you cannot be submissive with obedience.

 **Obedience is an act, but submission is the motive of the heart.**

Timothy was:

- a man of good reputation
- a disciple
- an overcomer of personal issues
- teachable

- faithful
- an example

Every circumstance, especially the really difficult ones, are opportunities to be trained. God is equipping you through circumstances in your life, so see the challenges and difficulties as stepping stones to a deeper walk with God. Use them as an invitation to abide with Him and pursue His heart. Let Him mature and establish you in Him by pruning and bringing necessary changes so that you will be prepared to fulfill the call He has on your life, and the purpose for which you were born into this moment in history. There are souls attached to your obedience, your surrender, and your destiny; but He can only choose us if we are living according to His will, His way, and for His pleasure.

Philippians 2:19-30 NKJV

Timothy Commended

19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. 20 For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. 22 But you know his proven character, that as a son with *his* father he served with me in the gospel. 23 Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. 24 But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.

Epaphroditus Praised

25 Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; 26 since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. 27 For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. 29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; 30 because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

Philippians 2: 19-30 NLT

Paul Commends Timothy

19 If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. 20 I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. 21 All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. 22 But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. 23 I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here. 24 And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon.

- Could the person(s) discipling you write the same thing about you?

Paul Commends your name

19 If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send your name to you soon for a visit. Then *they* can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. 20 I have no one else like your name, who genuinely cares about your welfare. 21 All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. 22 But you know how your name has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. 23 I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here. 24 And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon.

Paul Commends Epaphroditus

25 Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. And he was your messenger to help me in my need. 26 I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, and he was very distressed that you heard he was ill. 27 And he certainly was ill; in fact, he almost died. But God had mercy on him—and also on me, so that I would not have one sorrow after another.

28 So I am all the more anxious to send him back to you, for I know you will be glad to see him, and then I will not be so worried about you. 29 Welcome him in the Lord's love and with great joy, and give him the honor that people like him deserve. 30 For he risked his life for the work of Christ, and he was at the point of death while doing for me what you couldn't do from far away.