**March 5, 2017 “After the Counsel of His Will” Ephesians 1:11-14**

I hope that you and I both are realizing the incredible wonderment of God’s Word to His Church. We started our study in the Book of Ephesians in January and now as March has approached we find ourselves in verse 11 of the first chapter. Is it any wonder that our feeble minds agree with Romans 11: 33? “Oh, the depths of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!”

Remember when we started out in our journey through Ephesians, I told you to always look for the words “In Him?” I would like for us to take a moment and re-examine those words or the implication of those words here in Ephesians as they relate to our study today.

Note: vs 3, “In Christ”. Vs 4, “In Him”. Vs 4, Before Him”. Vs 5 “Through Jesus Christ”. Vs 6, “The Beloved”. Vs 7 “Through His blood”. Vs 7 “His Grace”. Vs 10 “In Christ”. Vs 11 “In Whom”. Vs 12, “In Christ”. Vs 13 “In Him”. Vs 14, “His Glory”. Vs 15, “In the Lord Jesus”. Vs 20, “In Christ”. Vs 23, “The fullness of Him”.

Why is this so important for us to understand and grasp as a foundation of and for our faith? Why do we need to know all this? Note I used the word “know!”….not feel?

Romans 6:3-6… “Or do you not know?” In the mind of God… we too were nailed to the Cross with Christ… we too were buried with Him and we too were raised with Him.

Ephesians 1:11-14

1. Obtained an inheritance
   1. We looked at this last week
      1. What is our inheritance in Christ?
         1. All the promises of God… are Yea and Amen
2. How do we “know” this to be true?
   1. Vs 11… Predestined
      1. Means “to lay out the boundaries”
         1. Two-sided coin as we will see
         2. Sign over the gate of heaven
            1. “Whosoever will may come”
            2. “Chosen before the foundation of the world”
   2. God’s side of the coin
      1. He has devised the entire plan of salvation and man had nothing to with it
      2. Why did God do this?
         1. Vs 12 and vs 14… “for the praise of His Glory”
      3. We must agree with and know that we had nothing to do with the implementation or design of God’s plan of salvation
         1. That should be chiseled in stone in our minds
         2. That is undisputable
   3. Our side of the coin
      1. Two aspects
      2. Vs 12… first to “hope in the Christ”
         1. We are to and must place all our hope in Christ alone
            1. “Nothing in my hand I bring… simply to thy Cross I cling”
            2. Song “Just as I am”
      3. Vs 13… after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation… having also believed
         1. Making that conscious choice to follow Christ
            1. Both in O.T and N.T.

Joshua… “as for me and my house… we will serve the Lord”

John 6:59-66

John 6:67-69

“We have believed and come to know… that You are the Holy One of God”

1. “Sealed with Him”
   1. Purposes of a seal
      1. Daniel placed in the lion’s den
         1. Placed a cover over and the king sealed it
         2. Only an authority greater than the king was allowed to break it
      2. Jesus in the tomb
         1. Stone was sealed with the seal of Rome
            1. Only greater power than the power of Rome was allowed to break the seal
      3. The seal showed authority
      4. Seal shows authenticity
         1. If you need to show that something is an original document
            1. Bring to a notary… to have a seal embossed on the paper
      5. Seal shows the ownership and protection of a greater One
         1. Revelation 7:1-3
2. Who is given as a pledge to our inheritance (vs 14)
   1. John 16:5-15
      1. I will disclose it to you (twice He says this)