

UHPC WORSHIP—LAST SUNDAY 12/30/ 2018

SERMON TOPIC: “CHOSEN CHILDREN OF GOD”

*“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves in righteousness, kindness, meekness, patience, forgiveness, bearing with one another. Above all, clothe yourselves with love which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts and be thankful. Let the Word of God dwell richly in us, teaching and admonishing one another in wisdom with Psalms, spiritual songs; ... and do all things in the name of Christ Jesus. (Col. 3: 12-17)*

Scripture tells us that many are called but few are chosen. The chosen are set apart for special functions, but everyone is called to live as children of God. In Paul’s letter to the Colossians, quoted above, he outlines what he refers to as “clothing” for the Chosen Ones... Holy and beloved and they are these:

righteousness, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, bearing with one another. And above all, clothe ourselves with LOVE which binds all things together in perfect harmony. Let the peace of Christ dwell richly and rule in our hearts. ... These are to be the dominant characteristics of the life of the chosen ones of God. But to the contrary, the people of God do not want to stand out as being different from the children of the world. We are afraid that others will think we are “stand-off-ish.” Don’t worry, people will know you are different without you having to say anything.

Paul wrote another letter to the Church at Ephesus—Ephesians 4:21 ... in which he wrote similar things e.g.: “You were taught in Him (Jesus) **as TRUTH** to put away your former way of life which is your old self—corrupt and deluded by lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and clothe your selves with the new self - RE-CREATED IN THE LIKENESS OF GOD IN TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS. (See John 18: 37-38--When Pilate asked Him- “What is Truth?” He

affirmed that HE is the TRUTH AS WELL AS KING OF THE JEWS.) So, if Jesus is TRUTH, and He indwells us then we ought to become Children of Truth. He told the Pharisees that the devil is the father of lies and that they belonged to him, which is to say they were liars like their father—the devil. This leads me to ask, why are so many Christian Believers still liars? Even worse,- why do so many steal, deceive, create strife and mischief, etc. Could it be that some of us are saved but not yet converted? I PRAY CONVERSION TO COME TO THOSE OF US WHO ARE STILL WEARING THE GARMENT OF THE OLD SELF. I PRAY THAT THE FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL DELIVER US FROM the old habits that defame the name of the LORD and help us to be girded in the garment of praise and righteousness. We pray for a fresh anointing to soak us into the TRUTH... who is Christ, and to imprint His character into and upon us SO WE WILL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH WILL SET US FREE. FOR WHO THE SON SETS FREE IS FREE INDEED.

In Romans 12: 9... again Paul wrote to the church at Rome concerning the **marks of the true Christian or chosen child of God**. Here are some of them: Genuine love, hatred of evil, hold fast to what is good, do not lag in zeal, honor God and one another, rejoice in hope, be patient, persevere in prayer, contribute to the needs of others, extend hospitality to strangers, bless those who persecute you...bless and do not curse, live in harmony and do not be haughty. Do not repay evil with evil but overcome evil with good. Do not avenge yourself, but leave room for the wrath of God. ...If your enemy is hungry or thirsty, feed him and give him drink. By so doing you overcome evil with good.

The theme: of “CHOSEN CHILDREN OF GOD” came to me initially—not so much about the characteristics of the ADULT CHOSEN CHILDREN OF GOD, but from the account of the little boy—Samuel who was offered back to God by Hannah his mother and Elkanah, his priestly father. He was placed in the care of Eli, the priest to be raised in the service of God. Each year when his parents went to the Temple to carry out Elkanah’s priestly duty, Hannah would make a special robe for Samuel. We are told that Samuel was ministering to the LORD wearing **a linen ephod which was a priestly garment representing strength, holiness, and purity.** But as his mother, Hannah wanted to bring a gift that showed her love and care for her son. Please note that God wants all children to be raised in the nurture and admonition of the Lord according to Ephesians 6:4., for all are called to honor and to worship our Creator. But some are chosen to fill special offices and need special training, and discipline. Usually these are hewn out of the depths of deep prayer or born under unusual circumstances. Consider Elizabeth and John the Baptist, Sarah and Isaac, and Jeremiah the prophet.

NONE WAS SO UNIQUELY CHOSEN AND EXCEPTIONALLY BORN AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOR CHRIST JESUS... YESHUA HA-MESSIACH. –CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BORN OF A VIRGIN! In Luke 2:41-52, we are told how at the age of about 12 years, His parents took him to Jerusalem for the annual Passover Feast. After all the festivities, they were on their way back to Nazareth when about a day’s journey from Jerusalem, they noticed that Jesus was not in the crowd. In panic and anxiety, they returned to the synagogue, where they found Him deeply engaged in debate and conversation with the great intellectuals, theologians, Scribes, and Pharisees, who were enthralled by His wisdom and knowledge of Scripture and understanding of spiritual things. His parents were a bit upset and

asked him why he had done such a thing. He answered that He thought they would know (by now) that he would be about His Father's business. AFTER ALL, BY THE AGE OF TWELVE, HE ASSUMED THEY WOULD KNOW HE WAS A SPECIAL AND CHOSEN CHILD WHO HAD A UNIQUE CALLING ON HIS LIFE. SHOULDN'T THEY HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS ANNOUNCEMENT AND BIRTH? DID THEY FORGET THE --SHEPHERDS AND MAGIS, HOSTS OF ANGELS SINGING... THE STAR IN THE SKY...THE PROPHECIES FULFILLED...??? Didn't they yet know who He was and what He had come to do to save humanity, to fulfill the Law, to transform and to enlighten human lives and to grant them mercy, abundant life and eternal life?

Like Samuel, Jesus was uniquely chosen for a special task in the world. However, he was far greater and more unique than Samuel for He was the exact image and imprint of the invisible God, Jehovah our Creator. He was the very embodiment of all the things Paul spoke of to the churches mentioned above and continues to speak to us today. As Christian believers we are to do all we can with the help of the Holy Spirit, to learn His ways, do the Father's Will, and to put on His characteristics.

As we close, let us see what these children and their parents have to say to us who are present children of God for these times: -- START TRAINING YOUNG CHILDREN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO SERVE THE LORD GOD.

- TEACH THEM THE WORD OF GOD AND HELP THEM TO APPLY IT TO THEIR LIVES.

- FOR THOSE WHO ARE OLDER MATURE CHILDREN OF GOD, LET US CONTINUE TO GROW UP AND TO RENEW OUR HEARTS, MINDS, BODY, SOULS, AND SPIRITS IN THE KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM, AND FAITH.
- LET US MAKE ROBES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THE LITTLE ONES AND COVER THEM IN CHRIST JESUS.
- SEE THAT WE DON'T LOSE THEM IN THE CROWD AS THEY MAY EXPECT US TO BE WATCHING OUT FOR THEM THINKING WE KNOW WHERE THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY ARE DOING.
- IF ANY GO ASTRAY, GO BACK AND FIND THEM.
- AS A CHOSEN CHILD OF GOD, THIS IS A GOOD TIME AT THE END OF THE YEAR 2018, TO CHECK OUR GARMENT AND MEND IT WHERE IT MAY BE TORN OR FRAZZLED. FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY PAUL AND EXEMPLIFIED BY HANNAH, ELKANAH, AND CHRIST JESUS, HIMSELF.
- REMEMBER GOD HAS CHOSEN US OUT OF THE WORLD TO DO GOOD WORKS...TO BE LIVING STONES, OF A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, AND A HOLY NATION. LET US REPAIR ANY DAMAGE DONE TO OUR LINEN EPHOD AND START ANEW FOR 2019. "See I am laying for you in Zion, a stone, a precious and Chosen Cornerstone, that those who believe in Him will never be put to shame. We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation...God's own people. WE ARE STILL IN THE POTTER'S HAND AND ON THE POTTER'S WHEEL, SO WE ARE A WORK IN PROGRESS. HE WILL MAKE US WHAT WE WERE CREATED TO BE AND DO WHAT WE ARE CALLED AND CHOSEN TO DO. WE ARE CHOSEN AND CALLED INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS CHILDREN OF GOD, TO DO GOD'S WILL IN THE WORLD. BECAUSE

OF THE CHIRST CHILD OF CHRISTMAS WE CAN SAY: "ABBA/FATHER!" FOR  
WE ARE CHOSEN CHILDREN OF GOD.

IN CHRIST JESUS,

AMEN.