

## **Sermon Notes – 11.26.2023 – You Are Called – You Are Accepted**

### **Christmas – In the Fullness of Time – God Sent His Son - Immanuel**

**Galatians 4:4-7** But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

**Looking Back on His Coming to Us, Jesus Said, "as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."**

**John 20:21-22** So Jesus said to them again, "Peace *be* with you; **as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**" 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and \*said to them, "**Receive the Holy Spirit.**

### **You Were Called – Invited, Divinely Selected and Accepted 'according to the kind intention of His will'**

**Ephesians 1:3-8** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, 4 just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. **In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,** 6 to the *praise* of the glory of His grace, which **He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.** 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 **which He lavished on us.** In all wisdom and insight

### **According to the Kind Intention of His Will – The Kindness of God Our Savior**

**Titus 3:4-7** But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

### **The washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit Sanctification & Empowerment**

### **In this Season When We Remember His Coming and Rejoice in His Birth – Remember, "So Send I You."**

**John 1:10** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and those who were **His own did not receive Him.** 12 **But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

Life, Being a Child of God is Not Passive

### **We Are Blood Bought Children of God Responding to God's Call to Run the Race**

## We Have a "Race" Set Before Us During Our Time Here on Earth – What is the Joy Set Before You?

**Hebrews 12:1-2** Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

- The Great Cloud of Witnesses – It was not their toil – their Faith that made their service precious
- We Endure because He Endured and Our Eyes are Fixed on Him.
- The Great Cloud of Witnesses in Hebrews 11 – They Were Called / They Said, "Yes."
- **What Will We Do to Say "Yes?"**

**Matthew 21:28-31** "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in the vineyard.' 29 "And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he regretted it and went. 30 "The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, 'I will, sir'; but he did not go. 31 "Which of the two did the will of his father?"

As we enter this time when we remember the Birth and Coming of Our Lord it would do us well to remember that the writer to the Hebrews described His coming this way, "THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.'" **Hebrews 10:7**

The Cross was without a doubt the height of Christ's obedience, "saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet **not as I will, but as You will.**" **Matthew 26:39**

**But, Jesus always did what pleased the Father.**

**John 8:28-29** So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. 29 "**And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.**"

## We Often Fall Short, but Our Ambition is Clear

**2 Corinthians 5:9** "Therefore **we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him**"