

According to His Own Purpose and Grace

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. 2 Timothy 1:9.

Any true Christian finds it difficult to understand why the Lord should have chosen him for salvation. As he sees the criminal led out to execution, he says, "Except for the grace of God there am I." As he sees the drunkard lying in the gutter, he thinks, "If it were not for God's grace, that is where I would be. There is nothing good in any one of us except what has come from the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If we think we know why God has chosen us, we may be sure that our reasoning is entirely wrong. According to His own purpose and grace He has chosen all who are saved through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, before the world began.

God has appointed all Christians as His representatives in this age to carry the message of salvation in order that His Spirit may use us as His instrument to lead into His kingdom those whom He has elected to eternal life. What wonderful courage it gives us as we go forward, to know that the battle is not to the strong nor the race to the swift. The results are not dependent upon our effort, although, of course, it is God's will that we should strive to make our efforts as effective as possible.

The results are in God's hands. All is according to His own purpose and grace. He is sovereign. Much that we do not understand today will be made clear when we shall stand before His throne and shall bow in adoration of His marvelous justice, goodness, and love.

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