

what to do WHILE WE WAIT

Part 2 – God Has A Plan
1 Thessalonians 1:4; Ephesians 1:9-12

Pastor Mark Hartman
April 30, 2017

INTRODUCTION

A. *Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each, according to his works.*

Matthew 24:27 For as the lightening comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

B. *Matthew 24:44 be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*

C. *1 Thessalonians 1:4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you. (NIV)*

D. *Ephesians 1:9-12 And God made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment - to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. ¹¹ In Christ we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of God who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory. (NIV)*

I. GOD HAS A PLAN FOR THE WORLD. (Ephesians 1:9-10)

- A. God created humans differently than any other living being. He gave us a soul – an ability to have a relationship with Him. He gave us a free **will** to choose.
- B. God has a **plan** and He will do His plan because God is Sovereign. God is on His Throne.
- C. *Matthew 24:7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains. (NIV)*
- D. *Ephesians 1:9-10 God has told us His secret reason for sending Christ, a plan He decided on in mercy long ago; ¹⁰ and this was His purpose: that when the time is ripe He will gather us all together from wherever we are - in heaven or on earth - to be with Him in Christ forever. (TLB)*
- E. Within God’s creation, He built in two specific characteristics:
 - 1. God is Sovereign. He is **totally** in control.
 - 2. God allows mankind to have a free **will** within His Sovereignty.

II. GOD HAS A PLAN FOR **EACH** OF US. (Ephesians 1:11)

- A. *Ephesians 1:11 In Him we were also **chosen**, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will,*
- B. *Ephesians 1:4 For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world....*
- C. God **chooses** people to be saved, a choice that is made before and unattached to any decision the person makes.

CDs and DVDs of today’s sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water’s Edge Resource Center.

Notes:
