

**January 19, 2020 – Isaiah 42:1-9 Theme: The Chosen One**

***“Here is my servant, Whom I uphold, My Chosen One in Whom I delight; I will put My Spirit on Him and He will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out or raise His voice in the streets. (He will not come with pomp and ceremony and splendor and pageantry) A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out. In faithfulness He will bring forth justice; He will not falter or be discouraged until He establishes justice on earth. In His law the islands will put their hope. This is what God the Lord says – He Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, Who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: I, The Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. I am The Lord; that is My Name! I will not give My glory to another or My praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place and new things I declare before they spring into being I announce them to you.”***

Are you a Christian? That is, Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your One and Only Savior from Sin? Did you have anything to do with you being a believer in Jesus Christ? Many people do think they had something to do with their ability to believe in Christ Jesus. Before you answer that question it is important to keep in mind passages from the Bible such as the following:

**John 15:16 (NIV)** – Jesus says: “*You did not choose me, but I chose you.*”

**Ephesians 1:3-5 (NIV)**– “*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 - For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 - He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will*”

Later in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians we learn that we are by nature: “*Spiritually Dead in our Trespasses and sins.*” (Eph. 2:1-10)

In light of those portions of Scripture we learn that we are not able to believe in Jesus Christ our Lord, nor come to Him by our own reason or strength, yet at the same time, God does not, nor did He force us to be believers.

RATHER – He drew us to Himself. As New Testament Believers God uses the New Testament Sacrament of Baptism to create faith in the hearts of sinful human beings. As a Believer in Christ Jesus, you are one of many Chosen Ones as God knew you before the creation of the world as we already learned in Eph. 1:3-5. As a believer in Christ, God Chose you to produce Good Works as you Serve God and others.

Throughout Scripture we have examples of others whom God chose for special purposes. God chose Noah to build an Ark, in which God preserved Humankind. God chose Moses to lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt. God chose David to rule as King of Israel. God even chose an unbeliever by the name of Cyrus, as HIS tool to have the children of Israel set free from bondage.

**Isaiah 45:1 & 4 (NIV)** – “*This is what the LORD says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: . . . . . 4 For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me.*”

In the sermon text for today from Isaiah Chapter 42 We ask the Question: Who is THE SERVANT / THE CHOSEN ONE? As we look at these nine verses from chapter 42 of Isaiah, we are able to learn that the One spoken of is Jesus our Savior.

Isaiah points out that the Spirit of God would be placed upon HIM. This occurred at the baptism of Jesus. Jesus would bring Justice to the nations.

Vs. 2 – *He will not shout or cry out or raise His voice in the streets.* (He will not come with pomp and ceremony and splendor and pageantry)

Jesus the Chosen Servant is so gentle that: *“A bruised reed He will **not break**, and a smoldering wick He will **not snuff out**. In faithfulness He will bring forth justice;”*

Jesus the Chosen Servant *“will not falter or be discouraged until He establishes justice on earth.”* People will come to Jesus the Chosen Servant from distant lands: *“In His law the islands will put their hope.”* It is an everlasting hope which will last forever in heaven.

And God’s promise is good because He *“created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, Who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:”*

Jesus The Chosen Servant is the fulfillment of *“the covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,”*

Jesus The Chosen Servant gives sight to the spiritually blind and sets those who have been held in the bondage of the prison of sin, Jesus set them free.

At the Baptism of Jesus God the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a Dove. God the Father is heard saying: ***“This is My Son, Whom I love, with Him I am well pleased.”***

During the earthly ministry of Jesus, He healed the sick and gave sight to the blind. (Matthew 11:2-6). Jesus the Chosen Servant also set us free from the dungeon of darkness in hell by His Perfect life on this Earth and His Innocent Suffering and Death on the Cross and His Glorious Resurrection from the Dead.

We just finished celebrating Christmas. The Birth of our Savior Jesus. We celebrated the New Year with New Year’s Eve parties and New Years Day recovery. We celebrate Easter – The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus from the dead. We celebrate Thanksgiving with a big family meal, as we thank God for all that He has given us through the year. We celebrate our own birthdays. WHY NOT Celebrate your baptismal Day? (If you do not know the day, try to find out when it was.) It was on your baptism day that the Lord God gave you new life in Christ Jesus our Lord! On your baptism day the Holy Spirit entered your heart and created faith in your heart. God the Holy Spirit created saving faith in your heart, a specific faith in Jesus your Savior. Baptism is not just a mere symbol or an empty ritual. It is for the Forgiveness of SINS! This is done in an instant in and a Moment.

We know this because God tells us in Peter’s Sermon on Pentecost Sunday – ***Acts 2:38-39 (NIV)*** – ***“Repent and be baptized every one of you for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”***

To be baptized is to admit to the fact that we have sin and thus need the forgiveness of sins. Since baptism is For the Forgiveness of sins, there are those who ask: “Why did Jesus need to be baptized?”

God tells us through the Apostle Paul in ***II Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)*** – ***“God made Him Who had no sin TO BE sin for us, so that in Him we might become the Righteousness of God.”***

Jesus became sin for us. And in our baptism, we become connected to Jesus and His Perfect obedience and life.

So how many times do we need to be baptized? The Lord God gives us the answer through the Apostle Paul: “There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and father of all Who is over all and through all and in all.” (Eph. 4:4-6 - NIV)

AMEN