

First Baptist Church – Odessa

Pastor Byron McWilliams

Date: _____

“How to Change a Destiny”

“iChurch – Doing Church Intentionally – Pt. 11

Ephesians 2:1-7 & Selected

A healthy New Testament church is intentional about seeing people live their destiny!

“This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

1 Timothy 2:3-4

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

To Change a Destiny...

I. You must see people as God sees them!

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked...” Vs. 1-2a

God Sees Lost People...

- **Living according to the pattern of this world.**

“...in which you once walked, following the course of this world.”

Vs. 2a

- **Receiving their marching orders from Satan.**

“...following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.” Vs. 2b

- **Living to gratify the lust of their flesh.**

“...among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind.” Vs. 3a

- **Destined to an eternal hell when they die!**

"...and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."

Vs. 3b

II. You must know the destiny God makes available for all.

"But God..." Vs. 4a

The Destiny God Makes Available...

- **Begins and ends with His mercy, love, and grace!**

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even while we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved." Vs. 4-5

- **Brings a glorious resurrection from death to life!**

"...and raised us up with Him." Vs. 6a

- **Brings an awesome ascension into Heaven!**

"...and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Vs. 6

- **Brings a magnificent inheritance in the future!**

"...so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Vs. 7

"For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come." Hebrews 13:14

III. You must care enough to share the Good News!

"We bring you good news, that you should turn from these things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them." Acts 14:15

"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'

Luke 2:10-11