### LESSON NINETY-FIVE

READ COLOSSIANS 1:16 TO 20 - JOHN 1:3 - JOHN 4:25 - JOHN 21:17

I CORINTHIANS 15:27 AND 28 - EPHESIANS 1:10 - EPHESIANS 1:22

EPHESIANS 4:10 - I CORINTHIANS 8:6 - I CORINTHIANS 3:21 - EPHESIANS 5:20

PHILIPPIANS 2:14 - PHILIPPIANS 3:21 - I THESSALONIANS 5:21 - I TIMOTHY 4:8

I CORINTHIANS 3:21 - I CORINTHIANS 14:26 - II CORINTHIANS 5:17 TO 20

HEBREWS 13:18 - II PETER 1:3 - ROMANS 8:28 AND 32

### ALL THINGS

First let us read carefully I Corinthians 8:6 and Romans 8:28 and 32: “But to us there is but one God, the Father, of Whom are ALL THINGS, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom are ALL THINGS, and we by Him.” “We know that ALL THINGS work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

It is interesting to note that the words “THING” and “THINGS” are found more than 1600 times in the Bible (King James version). Here is a very interesting truth; in Paul’s Epistles we find the expression “ALL THINGS” 76 times.

In II Corinthians 5:18 we read that ALL THINGS are of God. In I Corinthians 8:6 we read that ALL THINGS are of God and by Christ. God is Creator, Judge, King and Saviour.

Note Colossians 1:17 and 18: “And He (Christ) is before ALL THINGS, and by Him ALL THINGS consist: And He is the Head of the Body, the Church: Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in ALL THINGS He might have the preeminence.” This is in harmony with John 1:3 - ALL THINGS made by Christ.

God has committed all judgment unto Christ. (John 5:22 - Acts 17:31). Christ, as God’s Judge and King, will gather all nations before Him for judgment. (Matthew 25:31 to 41). As God’s King, Christ will put ALL THINGS under his feet. At present He is Head over ALL THINGS unto the Church, and He filleth ALL THINGS. (Compare I Corinthians 15:27 and 28 with Ephesians 1:19 to 23 - Ephesians 4:10 - and Hebrews 2:8). God will yet gather ALL THINGS together in Christ. (Ephesians 1:10).

We are told in John 4:25 - 21:17 and 2:25 that Christ, on earth, knew ALL THINGS. And now Christ upholds ALL THINGS by the Word of His power, the mighty power whereby He is able to subdue ALL THINGS unto Himself. (Hebrews 1:2 and 3 - Philippians 3:21).

When we read that God has appointed Christ Heir of ALL THINGS, let us know that we are joint-heirs with Christ; that ALL THINGS are ours, because we are Christ’s. Therefore, if we are called according to God’s purpose, ALL THINGS work together for our good. (Hebrews 1:2

- Romans 8:17 - I Corinthians 3:21 to 23 - Romans 8:28).

Our “all spiritual blessings” in Christ (Ephesians 1:3) are because of the truth of Romans 8:32 and II Corinthians 9:8: “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us ALL THINGS?” And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in ALL THINGS, may abound to every good work.”

Note Hebrews 2:10 and 2:17: “It became Him, for Whom are ALL THINGS, and by Whom are ALL THINGS, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” “Wherefore in ALL THINGS it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”

Because of all of the above, Christians are to obey Ephesians 5:20 - Philippians 2:14 - I Thessalonians 5:21: “Giving thanks always for ALL THINGS unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” “Do ALL THINGS without murmurings and disputings.” “Prove ALL THINGS; hold fast that which is good.”

Yes, II Peter is true: “According as His Divine power hath given unto us ALL THINGS that pertain unto life and godliness.” So also is I Timothy 4:8: “Godliness is profitable unto ALL THINGS, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.” Read and believe Philippians 4:19 and Ephesians 1:3.

Pray not for more ALL THINGS - Appreciate and appropriate our ALL THINGS.

### LESSON NINETY-SIX

READ EPHESIANS 1:4 TO 11 - EPHESIANS 1:19 TO 23 - EPHESIANS 2:7

EPHESIANS 3:7 - EPHESIANS 4:7 - EPHESIANS 3:11

EPHESIANS 3:16 - EPHESIANS 3:20 - EPHESIANS 4:16

### ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL, PURPOSE AND PLEASURE

In the Epistle to the Ephesians we find the expression “ACCORDING TO” fifteen times and the expression “ACCORDING AS” (another form of the same Greek word) once.

Note Ephesians 1:4: “ACCORDING AS He (God) hath chosen us in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.” If we can begin to comprehend this truth, we can understand the rest of this message concerning “ACCORDING TO” in Ephesians. Note the first “ACCORDING TO” that follows the above statement: “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, ACCORDING TO the good pleasure of His will.” (Ephesians 1:5).

“Foreknowledge” and “predestination” are linked together in Romans 8:28 to 30: “Whom God foreknew He did predestinate to be conformed to the image of Christ.” And in II Timothy 1:9, we learn that God’s grace and purpose, given in Christ before the world began, guarantees the believer’s salvation which is not ACCORDING TO His works; but ACCORDING TO God’s before-the-world purpose.

This predestination is ACCORDING TO the good pleasure of God’s will. Note Ephesians 1:9 and 11: “Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, ACCORDING TO His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself.” “In Whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated ACCORDING TO the purpose of Him Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.”

That grace and salvation which God purposed in Christ before the world is called “the mystery of God’s will,” “ACCORDING TO the good pleasure of His will;” “ACCORDING TO the purpose of Him Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.”

In these Scriptures we learn that God is sovereign and omnipotent and determined. God is going to have His own way concerning His eternal purpose in spite of all the opposition of Satan and his heavenly principalities, in spite of religious men and their man-made religious organizations.

Note Ephesians 3:11: “ACCORDING TO the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Note in Ephesians 4:8 to 13 how God is working out His eternal purpose. By His Son and the Holy Spirit, and spiritual servants with special gifts, God is building up the foreordained, unprophesied Church, which is Christ’s Body, one flesh with Christ, (Ephesians 5:31 and 32), the Perfect Man of Ephesians 4:13. So in spite of all opposition God worketh all things after the counsel of His own will. The culmination will be ACCORDING TO God’s purpose and the pleasure of His will. It is wonderful and blessed to fall in with His will with all our hearts and obey Ephesians 3:9.

Consider the power and grace that the believer has in and through and by Christ. “Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, ACCORDING TO the power that worketh in us.” Ephesians 3:20. “What is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, ACCORDING TO the working of His mighty power.” (Ephesians 1:19 and 20). God’s power is unlimited. That power is available for every member of the Body of Christ and God’s will is that it should work in every Body-member.

In II Timothy 1:9 and Ephesians 2:7 we learn that the member of Christ’s Body is standing in an eternity of grace, the riches of God’s grace. He is made accepted in the Beloved (Ephesians 1:6). This word “accepted” is the Greek form of the noun “grace”. He is “GRACED” in the Beloved, “In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins,

ACCORDING TO the riches of His grace.” Who can fathom, measure or compute the riches of God’s grace? Our redemption and forgiveness is ACCORDING TO the riches of God’s grace that God will continue to reveal in the ages to come (Ephesians 2:7). After reading Ephesians 2:7 then read Ephesians 3:7 and Ephesians 4:7 “Whereof I was made a minister, ACCORDING TO the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of His power.” “But unto every one of us is given grace ACCORDING TO the measure of the gift of Christ.”