



Second Sunday of Christmas

Chosen

Ephesians 1:3-14

We have been chosen to fulfill our divine destiny since the beginning of time.

Second Sunday of Christmas

Let's the start the New Year off right...

Let me lower the bar for you a bit...

Demotivation—when motivation doesn't seem to be working.

Are you inspired yet?

Today's passage of Scripture contains one of the greatest motivational speeches of all time...

The Apostle Paul was writing to a group of people who were confronted with the struggles that come with diverse community...

"You can always lower your expectations, and they'll always be met...

Or you can live into your God-given destiny and change the world."

WE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO FULFILL OUR DIVINE DESTINY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME

Ephesians 1:3-14

- A cyclical letter—most likely sent around to various churches—addressing diversity*
- The reality of Paul's new community—differences in class, gender, race, religion...*
- In Christ there is no longer this group or that group—we're all in the same family*
- Adoption into nobility—a Roman custom that affected who ruled as Caesar.*
- We have been chosen to be a part of this new family with unimaginable status...*
- We have been given the inheritance of redemption and forgiveness*

Paul teaches that everything that has been divided, separated, torn apart, etc. is brought back together in Christ, and we also have been chosen to be agents of reconciliation between God and all of Creation.

Embracing Your Chosen-ness

- **Confidence** in God's actions—past and present*
- **Trust** in God's promises—for an uncertain future*
- **Belief** in yourself as God's chosen instrument*

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SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

Watch For The Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas
Various Authors

Advent To Epiphany: Engaging the Heart of Christmas
Liena Apsukrapsa

Christmastide: Prayers for Advent through Epiphany
Phyllis Tickle

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