

“Celebrating Decisions”



By Mrs. Sojourner

Today we celebrate decisions. Two hundred thirty four years ago, over fifty men gathered, representing thirteen colonies, and adopted the “Declaration of Independence” which officially started those thirteen colonies down the road to independence.

Each man there had to decide to adopt (or not to) the Declaration. Each man who later signed the declaration did so by definite decision. Each man in that position was there as a result of not only his decision but the decisions of those who agreed he should represent their colony/state.

We citizens of the United States are citizens of the U.S. and not subjects of Great Britain because these men made decisions. Many of them suffered great loss as a result of their decisions. Their loss was our gain.

Let us transfer our thinking for a few minutes to some other decisions that have had an even greater effect on all people.

1.) God the Father decided to create the earth
2) God the Father decided to

create man
3.) Because Adam decided to eat the forbidden fruit, God decided to make a way for mankind’s redemption.
4.) God the Father decided to send his only-begotten Son as a sacrifice for mankind.
5.) Jesus decided to allow himself beaten, tortured, and crucified for our sins.
6.) Jesus decided to die.
7.) Because of the above decisions all mankind has the right to accept God’s gift of redemption by receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord.

All of these decisions are life-altering. I cannot speak to all of the reasons behind our Founding Fathers’ decisions, but the purpose behind all of God’s decisions is love.

During this time of celebration for our country let us also celebrate our God of love and his decision to rescue us and preserve us.

Notes:
[a]

9-25

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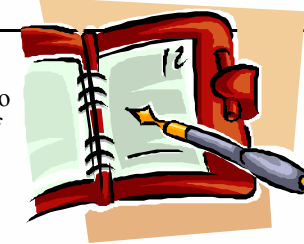
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...with The Sojourner

“What’s The Plan?” (Teaching Sketch) Hebrews 11:32-40 (NIV)

There is no plan like God’s plan for those who are in the relationship of grace through faith with him! The truth of the matter is there is no real plan for anyone but God’s plan. The better position, by far, is to be in the plan of grace in the grace relationship provided by Jesus Christ. One day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess, Jesus Christ is Lord.^[a] You understand that means every knee, not just the ones who are in Christ but also those who are not in grace through Christ. You see, believer and non-believer are both affected by God’s plan.



whole plan. The Roman Road Map is a great way to explain and assist someone to find salvation, healing, and deliverance in

Jesus Christ, but what about after that?

Notes:

[a]
Philippians 2:10-11

[b]
1 Cor. 2:6-10

[c]
Philippians 4:19

Participating In The Plan

Participating voluntarily in God’s plan is much superior to participating by bowing your knee and confessing Jesus Christ is Lord as a part of the vanquished foes of God. We hear much about the need to be saved by the Savior, but we hear little about being subjects of a risen Lord. It is easy to feel secure in Christ as a person who will save me some day, but much more involved to serve and be in subjection to the Lord. I often hear people say how much they love Jesus and how much they love singing songs of praise to him but I hear little about the secrets of God that were revealed to them while studying scripture, or during times of prayer. It seems as

7-35

Knowing God’s Plan

There is only one way to know God’s plan. You must allow the mysteries of God’s plan to be revealed to you.^[b] Most people have been deceived into thinking the Roman Road Map is the totality of God’s plan. Do not misunderstand me here, the Roman Road Map is a portion of God’s plan, but it is not the

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-40 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

³²And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ³⁵Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection.

Notes:

[a]
Some early manuscripts stoned; they were put to the test;

³⁶Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. ³⁷They were stoned^[a]; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—³⁸the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. ⁴⁰God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship** (*Offerings are placed in the basket at this time*)
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

"What's The Plan?" (Teaching Sketch)

Hebrews 11:32-40 (NIV)



though many people want a one-sided covenant, which is not a covenant at all, where God does it all and they remain Lord of their own lives, thank you very much. There are times I think people need more help being protected from themselves than protected from Satan. These people have words of confession in Christ and behaviors of rebellion. It is like they are saying any plan for this life but God's plan, and only God's plan for the hereafter—"thank you very much." "I'm in charge now but when I die I want all the benefits of God's wonderful plan."

being in The Kingdom from God's, "riches in glory."^[c]

Which Part Will You Play?

We all must make choices as to which plan we will participate in while we are alive and remain here. So what is your choice? You may say, "I have already chosen Jesus, but did you want a Savior with out a lord, The Lord? Jesus is Lord and he is either Lord of all or he is Lord of nothing. Please, cast you crown now so he can give you the Crown of Life!

Resting In The Plan

It is important to note that there is rest in God's plan because it is the only real plan and will meet every need you and I will ever have now and in eternity!

Harvesting In The Plan

When most people think of harvesting in The Kingdom, God's plan of blessing, they think of building God's Kingdom through evangelism. Evangelism is a huge part of functioning in Kingdom harvesting but they are blessed also to receive a harvest by

Sojourners...
yield good
fruit and
harvest unto
the Lord
their God.

