

This passage will remind us of Ephesians 1 and the promises to those in the faith and seated in the "heavenly places." More important they will remind us that our lives are in his care. We believe he has a plan and our trust in that plan is borne from the experience of our daily deliverance by him.

3. Conclusion

That God does have a plan does not make us fatalistic. We do not assume a posture that he will do what he wants and we are unimportant. That he has a plan makes us want to see our place in it. Because we are important (precious) to him, we want to see how he is best honored in our lives. The importance of God's plan is striking and it should be our desire to understand it better...but even moreso, to have confidence in its author and to live our lives in worship, service, and dedication to him.

F. We Believe in Our Responsibility.

Basic Scripture: Romans 13:8-14

1. Introductory Note:

When we speak of this, we do not mean to suggest that we are going to run the universe. We mean that, by the grace of God, we are accountable in certain areas to know his will and to honor his person. These are not matters of salvation for that is the work of grace...as is all else that we know; but matters of testimony in which we are to walk "worthy of the calling in which we are called" (Ephesians 4:1). The Christian life is not a casual, lounging affair but a quiet life of spiritual dignity with each believer exercising his gifts and skills in a calling for the honor of the Lord. We believe that this is our lot. And our belief in this conditions us to study the lives in the light of the Word and have them directed in terms of the Person and Worthy Nature of Christ.