

Chosen and Faithful Followers

Have you ever experienced an occasion that made you exclaim, “This is wonderful! How could life be any better?” Earthly joys do give us brief spells of euphoria, and we treasure those times.

As Christians, we look forward to something infinitely better, an unending time of unsurpassed joy. When “the kingdom of this world” becomes “the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ” we, His “faithful followers” will be there! Christ will reign “forever and ever”. We know that all things done in heaven will be His will, for Jesus taught us to pray, “Thy will be done on earth *as it is in heaven.*” God’s will is good and gracious.

The text further names those who will enjoy these ultimate blessings—they are His “called, chosen and faithful” followers. Through baptism, Christ has called and chosen us for His own. As we grow in His Word, we become faithful followers, waiting to inherit the “rooms” in heaven which Jesus has prepared for us. (John 14)

How can we keep this to ourselves? A treasure like this begs to be broadcast! God’s gracious love and forgiveness through Christ’s death and resurrection are for all mankind, and we are His messengers. Let’s burst through the bonds that prevent us from spreading the Good News to others.

The composer George Frederick Handel used words of our text in his thrilling “Hallelujah!” chorus. Even the power, majesty and ecstasy of that notable musical setting cannot begin to convey the whole joy of our life in heaven with Christ. Imagine living under the reign of the “King of kings and Lord of lords” in a sinless environment! It can’t get any better than that!

Prayer: Thank you, heavenly Father, that you have called and chosen us through our baptism and kept us faithful to Your Word. Urge us to spread the message of the Good News to others. Help us to remain faithful unto death to receive the promised crown of life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Marcene Huebner, a friend who passed away in 2021