

Before Times Eternal

By Peter McArthur

All believers have a birthright to “see” God’s purpose and plan.



Eph 1:17-18 “... that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know** what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...”

Eph 3:9 “...and to **bring to light what is the administration of the mystery** which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things...”

This insight is given by the Holy Spirit of God.

1Jhn 2:27 “As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as **His anointing teaches you about all things**, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.”

However, Paul had a special revelation due to his special calling.

2 Cor 12:2-4 “I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago (whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows) such a man was caught up to the third heaven. And I know how such a man (whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows) was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.”

So Paul takes us back “before times eternal”.

2 Tim 1:9 “...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus **before the eternal times.**”

Tit 1:2 “...on hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised **before eternal times...**”

He writes as though he’s “seeing” the ecclesia as a COMPLETE unit. Yet today we know it’s still not completed, either morally, spiritually, or even numerically.

Paul has seen that the “church of the One Body” was pre-chosen and pre-determined by God “before times eternal”.

Eph 1:4 “...just as He chose us in Him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before Him in love...”

2 Tim 1:9 “He saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our own accomplishments, but according to his own purpose and the grace that was given to us in the Messiah Jesus **before time began.**”

He sees the Church as though he’s standing outside of time! What Paul “saw” was that the “elect” would enter, not only into salvation, but into A PURPOSE.

The Father's purpose for us is certainly related to our salvation, but it seems they are different things.

PURPOSE = sonship, maturity, eternalness (Rms 8:29 "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that the Son might be the firstborn among many brothers.")

PLAN = salvation in order to enter the above Purpose.

God's purpose is to **SECURE** and to **ESTABLISH** a man. Note carefully the following sequence.

Adam in the Garden – there is a Father, but no mother.

Jesus in His flesh – there is a mother, but no (earthly) father.

Sons of God (elect/church of the One Body) – there is a Father and a Spirit.

New believers in Christ should be made aware of their heavenly calling. All "weakness" in any new convert stem from them not knowing what their ultimate purpose in Christ is!

Reflect please on these scriptures.

"Before times eternal" PLUS the "Ages to Come".

The diagram consists of two rectangular boxes with orange borders, positioned side-by-side. Two blue arrows point upwards from the top center of each box towards the text above. The left box contains two scripture references: 2 Tim 1:9 and Tit 1:2. The right box contains two scripture references: Eph 2:7 and Eph 1:21.

<p>2 Tim 1:9 "He saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our own accomplishments, but according to his own purpose and the grace that was given to us in the Messiah Jesus before time began.</p> <p>Tit 1:2 "...which is based on the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began."</p>	<p>Eph 2:7 "...so that in the coming ages he might display the limitless riches of his grace that comes to us through his kindness in the Messiah Jesus."</p> <p>Eph 1:21 "He is far above every ruler, authority, power, dominion, and every name that can be named, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.</p>
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