

August 17, 2025

Chosen for Unshakeable Destiny (I Peter 2:9)

Sermon series on Rocky: Jesus changes the name of Simon to Peter, the rock, to match his assignment. Text today I Peter 2:9. Peter writes from experience. He was chosen by Jesus as disciple – late 20's early 30's, similar age as Jesus. As Peter writes I and 2 Peter, he is now in his 60's. He's been beaten and jailed, and his life threatened. He's seen fellow Christians die and the church scatter.

- It's in this context Peter writes: I Peter 2:9
- But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light (I Peter 2:9)

Pray

The desire to be chosen starts early.

Picture elementary school: you're lined up for kickball, two captains stand in front, scanning the crowd. One by one, names are called. And all we want — is to be picked. Not last. Just chosen.

For Me it was basketball practice 4th – 12th grade. 2 captains - everyone else is on the bleachers waiting. You want to be at least the first 5 chosen to avoid unchosen-ness

In third grade, my teacher Mrs. McKay ran a weekly competition: whoever had the most organized desk won free candy. A bag of M&M's. A full-size candy bar. I tried every week. Never won. But I kept trying — because I wanted to be chosen.

We want to be chosen to run for a class office. Class president, vice president, treasurer, anything. When the voting is done we want to be picked. **Anyone here run for student council? I ran for VP and had to settle for 4-H rep.**

Then there's homecoming. Maybe you dreamed of being crowned king or queen. But eventually, the dream becomes . . . I hope I can just get a date to the dance...your feelings are hurt if you don't have a date.

As we get older there are other ways we want to be chosen.

We want to be chosen to attend the **university** we applied to.

We want to be chosen by the **company for a job.**

We want to be **chosen for the promotion and chosen for the raise.**

We want to be **chosen by the love of our life** in marriage.

As parent **chosen as the "FUN" parent** not always as the one who says, "NO."

When your **grandparent you want to be the fav.** Your **grandkids want to be chosen as the favorite too. Brent and I have 4 grandkids** On one of my Covenant Grove videos – someone left me a message: "Hi Cece, from your favorite grandchild."

E wants to be chosen.

I attended a small school in northern Oklahoma was fun – there was plenty of competition in being chosen for first team in sports, music competitions, 4-H... High School senior year, barely 17, year held much promise. I was the head cheerleader for our High School squad, I was part of the basketball team, jazz band, I had 2 classes with my favorite teacher Mrs. Hadwiger. First day of school I was excited. See all friends. During the last period – music class. I was called to the superintendent's office. We had a new *"To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."*

superintendent. That day my chosen-ness of being head cheerleader came crashing down. He told me I was no longer on the squad. Wah, wah, wah. I cried my eyes out as I walked home that day.

- How can you walk into your High School feeling chosen and a few hours later walk out knowing your unchosen.

I didn't know destiny of Sr year. God had something completely unexpected – later that school year in April I entered a state 4-H competition that I won and best of all I was chosen for the lead in the Senior Class Play. Set me on a different path.

How we grasp the meaning of CHOSEN affects our *Destiny, our future.*

When you hear the word “Destiny,” what comes to mind?

For each generation, the meaning may shift.

Gen Z: 13 to 28 destiny is shaped by identity and choice.

Nonlinear career paths and creative entrepreneurs. Imagine my future and go after it. I hope you know the Gen Z here at Covenant Grove.

Millennial: 29-44 destiny tied to purpose – calendar reflects that. May also feel anxious: working several jobs to pay of student loans. Side hustle so you can afford braces for your middle schooler, or so kids can play sports. Or your destiny may be ending generational family dysfunction of toxic relationships.

Gen X: 45-60 backbone in many workplaces. Self-reliant, authentic, tension between job stability and personal fulfillment. Known as the Sandwich generation, expend a lot of energy caring for your parents and worrying about your adult children.

Whatever generation you belong to, you may think: “is this all there is?”

Wait, did I leave out a generation? Boomers: Ages 61 to 79.

You were shaped by grit, loyalty, and perseverance.

Your life path was linear: education - career - retirement.

You built stability. You built legacy.

And now?

Maybe you've retired from full-time work, but you're helping your kids—or helping raise your grandkids.

Maybe you're fully retired and content.

Maybe you're wondering... what's next?

Let me sit here with you for a minute.

I'm at the tail end of the Boomer era myself.

And I've got a word for you:

Moses became a trailblazer at 80.

He didn't peak in his 40s.

He led a nation through the wilderness—after a lifetime of preparation.

Every detour, every desert season led him to that moment

Now unless you've had a Burning Bush moment lately,

God may not be asking you to lead a million people through the Sinai desert

But . . .

You have decades of wisdom.

You have stories—some messy, some miraculous.

You have insight that can't be Googled.

Boomers, are you with me?

Look around.

“To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.”

- Do you see someone who could use encouragement?
- Someone who could benefit from your life experience?
- Don't stare. And please don't elbow the person next to you.

You're the seasoned generation.

You've walked through fire and come out refined.

And God isn't done with you.

Your destiny is still unfolding.

You have a contribution for the next generation

So tell them:

- Your mess-ups
- Your victories
- Your faith story

Be a little vulnerable.

Be a little bold.

Because someone needs to hear what God has done in you—and through you.

Your destiny is still unfolding.

ALL GENERATIONS

You are chosen. It's what you've always wanted. And God tells us over and over that it's true.

Sermon Text for Today

****You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9***

****Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion. Colossians 3:12***

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that He has chosen you. 1 Thes 1:4

****You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed and placed and purposefully planted you, so that you would go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain and be lasting so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. Jn 15:16 AMP***

***You are chosen (tell person next to you)**

Our God makes this statement about everyone who has given their life to Christ (***"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*** —John 3:16)

But here's the tension -- If we are chosen -- why don't we feel like it?

- Why don't we feel like a number one draft choice.
- Why do we walk around feeling insecure and afraid and not enough.

In the biggest draft of all, God called YOUR number

- You are chosen **for 1st team** – TEAM JESUS.
- Yet we can still tell ourselves:
- I'm not good enough, not smart enough,
- We walk around with insecurity, fear, and that nagging sense of not enough

We allow our inner self-talk to sabotage us

- I'm not chosen: How can I expect to land a good job.

"To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."

- I'm not chosen: How can I have a healthy marriage.
- I'm not chosen: with all this baggage, how can I be a good parent.

These are lies from the enemy that come from his playbook - not part of our God-given destiny.

- He's the master deceiver, one who brings confusion.

What do we do? How do we separate the lies from the truth?

We go to Jesus. He is the Cornerstone of our faith, of our life. 1 Peter 2:4

We ask Jesus to tell us who we are.

- Chosen
- His special possession
- A royal priesthood
- A HOLY nation

Apostle Peter tells us WHO we are and that in Christ we have a SECURE FUTURE

When Peter says Jesus is the Cornerstone of our faith he is referring to the Word of the Prophet Isaiah

***Isaiah 28:16 NLT: This is what the Sovereign LORD says, "Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem a firm and tested stone. It's a precious cornerstone safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken."**

Friends, not only are you CHOSEN, you possess an UNSHAKEABLE DESTINY.

An unshakeable destiny built upon the ROCK – Jesus Christ.

How do I live as CHOSEN in your unshakeable destiny.

Can I ask you this question?

How many of you really, really want God's will for your life – raise your hand.

- As a pastor: I hear this question often: how can I know God's will for my future? We often pray about the options, over analyze every angle, pray again, so afraid we might take the wrong job, spend \$ going back to school and still be stuck in same job, or marry the wrong person and then have the wrong life.
- That's a lot of pressure when you can't figure out what you're eating for dinner.
- While we're chasing the perfect answer for tomorrow, we're missing what God wants for us to do today.

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

***Be holy, because I am holy. 1 Peter 1:16**

God's will for you: be holy

***Chosen for holiness**

"To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."

- The only way for us to be holy is to be in the presence of Jesus – there’s no other way.
- Jesus became the unblemished lamb, the perfect sacrifice. Being nailed to the cross He took our sin upon Himself so that the power of sin could be broken in our life.
-
- Jesus came to free us from self condemnation. From lies of the enemy.
- In repentance we turn to Him for forgiveness of sin – **we become a royal priesthood – a holy people.**

We are chosen for HOLINESS.

- **We want our lives to look like the One we follow - Jesus.**
- Because we’re chosen, we choose to live differently, set apart

If our lives look the same as those who don’t know Jesus...

That’s not holiness. That’s trying to FIT IN.

- **Are we trying to fit in by talking the same as others who don’t know Jesus**
- **Is there sarcasm, crude humor, join with peers in gossip?**
- **Are you bingeing the same shows, scrolling the same content, as those who don’t follow Jesus?**
- Do you shield your eyes—and your heart—from impurity?
- **Are you canceling people on social media?**
- What words spill out when someone cuts you off in traffic or drives 10 under the limit?
- **When was the last time you said, “I’m wrong. Will you forgive me?”**
- **When was the last time you forgave someone who didn’t deserve it?**

If our behavior mirrors the world, we’re clinging to things Jesus never meant to be part of our destiny.

- **Building a shallow faith that won’t stand, it will collapse under pressure**
- **Using the playbook from the opposing side**
- **But pastor, I need to defend myself – no Jesus is your Defender**
- **We’re called to play offense – keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus the Author and Cornerstone of our faith**

Living holy and following Jesus isn’t easy.

Let’s not forget—the readers of this letter were facing persecution because they were chosen.

- Your chosen-ness to be holy may not lead to applause.
- It might not earn you a promotion, a party invitation, or a seat at the popular table.
-
- High school students—your decision to be set apart may invite teasing.
- Not for your beliefs alone, but for the way you wear your hair,
- the kind of jeans you choose,
- Young women—you may be judged for not wearing makeup,
- for choosing clothes that honor modesty over trend

Live set apart, holy. Let’s not make God’s will for our life complicated.

We serve a GOOD GOOD Father.

Be holy by being with Jesus and serving as He did.

- Here’s an example of how God often sees us.
- Ready, this takes a lot of imagination – especially if you’re a parent.

“To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.”

- Your middle schooler suddenly announces: “Mom, I want to help you clean! Can I please vacuum the house?”
- After you pick yourself up off the floor, you express your gratefulness: “Wow honey, that's great, thank you!” But then imagine your child rushes up to you 5 minutes later:
- “Mom, I need help, I don't know where to begin. Should I start in the living room or the bedrooms?”
- You probably smile and reply; “It doesn't matter any room will do!”
- You're just grateful for their **zeal for cleaning** and even more grateful they're developing **selfless character** because as a parent your **primary goal is for your child to become godly and discerning – holy. The room is irrelevant. Even how well they clean doesn't matter. What matters is their heart.**

I wonder if God smiles at us like that parent as we determine His will for today and curate our heart holiness.

We want the destiny He has for us.

We ARE CHOSEN

- CHOSEN FOR HOLINESS

***Chosen to Praise**

****You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9***

Arete' - excellencies

Pronunciation: ah-reh-TAY

Phonetic Spelling: (ar-et'-ay)

We boast to people about our favorite restaurant – how delicious our friend's cheesecake is; she's an amazing cook.

We don't hesitate to tell strangers about the best movie we've seen.

We certainly don't hold back about bragging on our kids or grandchildren.

But when it comes to bragging on God – we become tongue-tied? We get quiet about the greatest decision we ever made.

- He's called us out of darkness into His wonderful light.
- He's rescued us from enemy territory
- And chosen us for His First Team!
- Honestly, the best way for me to enter into the presence of Jesus is through worship.
- Singing His praise – dancing – declaring His greatness
- Are you fighting to feel chosen, fighting to be holy – get into PRAISE – Praise shifts the mindset – tells the enemy to flee – and places us in the throne room of Almighty God!

I'll praise when I feel it

And I'll praise when I don't

I'll praise 'cause I know

You're still in control MAGNET on my refrigerator 25 years

As long as there is breath we have a reason to praise HIM!

“To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.”

**Give Him the PRAISE for what He's done for you and what He's doing.
Your praise will open your eyes to what God is doing.**

If you still in a quandary of praising Jesus – can I share what how JESUS has spoken His chosen-ness to me in the past 2 months?

Go to the Gospel of John. These are the red letters – what Jesus spoke to Peter, John and the other disciples. Over 20 encouragements Jesus speaks over His disciples. Give you 3.

John 14:23 If anyone really loves Me, he will keep My Word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling place with him.

***1. We're on Team Jesus**

"We - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

With Jesus LORD of your life; You are on the winning team!

- Helping you be holy, living set apart,
- Healing your wounds through PRAISE

John 16:13 When He the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will GUIDE you into all TRUTH. For He will not speak on His own initiative, but He will speak whatever He hears from the Father (regarding the Son) and He will disclose to you what is to come.

***2. Holy Spirit leads you to all truth.**

- need guidance, what does Jesus want for me today, for tomorrow?
- do you want the TRUTH, the truth about YOU, how Jesus is reshaping your heart, how - He wants you to play 1st team for His Kingdom?
- The Holy Spirit is ready to give it to you – want it, listen.

John 17:20 I do not pray for these alone, but also for (all) those who (will ever) believe and trust in Me through their message, 21 that they may be one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

3. *Jesus has prayed for YOU.

- that you may be one with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Jesus prays with you, HS is ready to guide you and lead you to ALL truth.

How does this work in REAL TIME . . . in the everyday. Glad you asked.

Lenae's story as single parent: everyone, friends and family told her she was doing it wrong. Too lenient. She needed to discipline her son more and set stronger boundaries.

PRAYER and time in WORD: God tells her to love her autistic son and be patient.

Eric's story of landing job: offered job with a sought after organization. But it was a position he had worked in 20 yrs ago. No desire to return to the same thing – although there were full benefits.

God said wait – but Eric prayed, what if this is it, and I don't have another offer. God said again said, wait – friends told him to accept the first job – why expect something better.

8 months later the head of department moved out of state and the position he desired opened up.

THIS IS TEAM JESUS – EXPECT HIM TO GUIDE YOU, EXPECT HIM TO TELL YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

"To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."

Will we get it perfect? Did Peter get it perfectly? No He received correction from Jesus many times.

Luke 22:22

At the Passover meal before His crucifixion Jesus says, "One of you will betray me." As the disciples look at one another, "Who will betray Jesus?" Then they begin arguing about who is the greatest among them. Conversation turns once more: Jesus reverts back to calling Peter - Simon
 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."
³³ But Peter replies, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."
³⁴ Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

- **Hours later Peter denies knowing Jesus**
- **Why did Jesus tell Peter what was going to happen verse 32 so that your faith may not fail.**

Friends have you denied Jesus?

- Have you denied Jesus by not taking Him to your workplace
- Students have you denied Jesus by not taking Him to school with you
- Have you ignored holiness by trying to fit to your peer group – all ages and generations
- Do you only give Jesus praise when others are praising Him because you want to fit in

Worship Team (instruments)

Have you denied Jesus at the airport? I have.

Kara Story

The Chosen, receive mercy I Peter 2:10

God didn't chose Peter to be a disciple because he had the perfect leadership resume. He didn't choose Peter for his intellect. Jesus chose Peter because of his heart. He had a heart willing to be shaped by failure and mercy.

A willing heart even in the mess-ups, is enough for Jesus to build something unshakeable.

***Isaiah 28:16 This is what the Sovereign LORD says, "Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem a firm and tested stone. It's a precious cornerstone safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken."**

You are chosen for an unshakeable destiny.

How are you living into your chosen-ness?

- **What needs to go?**

Talk to those of you who know Jesus... but are not living holy lives...

Those who have not given your life to Jesus...

- Pray for those who are not living for Jesus
- Pray for those who haven't become part of Team Jesus.

"To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."