

A HEAVENLY HOST

It is not uncommon to find people who think that one of the tenets of the Primitive Baptist faith is that there will only be "chosen few" in heaven. However, we believe just the opposite. We believe, as the Bible instructs us, that heaven will be occupied by a great multitude, which no man can number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues (See Rev. 7:9). And the reason we believe they will be in heaven is because they have been redeemed unto God by the blood of Christ (See Rev. 5:9).

In that notable prophecy recorded in the book of Isaiah concerning our Lord it was said that by His knowledge He would justify *many*. It did not say that He would *try* to justify them but that He *would* justify them. It did not say He would justify *just a few*, nor did it say He would justify *all mankind*, but it *did* say He would justify *many* (Isaiah 53:11). And He accomplished that justification by bearing their iniquities. It is a finished and completed work.

Paul said that as many as God foreknew and predestinated and called, He also justified, and those He justified He also glorified (Rom. 8:29-30). So in

the mind and purpose of God this takes care of them all the way from eternity past to eternity future, if we may so speak.

We find that by the *disobedience* of Adam many were made sinners, but by the *obedience* of Christ *many* shall be made righteous. Not *maybe* made righteous, but *shall be* made righteous (Rom. 5:19). *How many?* As many as the Father gave to Christ (John 17:2); as many as the Lord our God shall call (Acts 2:39); as many as were ordained to eternal life (Acts 13:48); and as many as are led by the Spirit of God. (Rom. 3:14).

It can easily be shown that those who accuse us of believing that there will only be a few in heaven are in reality the ones who tacitly teach that erroneous idea. Ask any freewill religionist what his view of Matthew 7:13-14 is, and he will tell you that he believes the broad way represents eternal hell and the narrow way represents eternal heaven. If that false interpretation were true then there would be no way to escape the conclusion that there will only be a few in heaven. So, it is not *we* who teach that false doctrine, but *they*.

Popular religion also teaches that spiritually unborn sinners must perform various conditions in order to have eternal life. But the Scriptures are very clear that such characters can neither receive nor know the things of the Spirit of God (See I Cor. 2:14). Consequently they actually hold to a doctrine that would in reality deny heaven, not just to a few, but to *every living soul*.

We, as Primitive, or original Baptists, believe that God will save everyone of His elect, an innumerable host, without the loss of a single one, while popular religion teaches that untold millions of those that God (*wanted?*) to save will be lost for one reason or another. Thank God we have been shown the truth of the matter and that it is not *we*, but *they*, who are guilty of the thing whereof they have accused us.

---Elder Ralph Harris