

# Predestined to Die

Written by Rev. Julia Schwert

**J**esus' Birthday is celebrated by many Christians this month. Yes, He was sent to this earth to die for our sins. **Thank you, Jesus, for fulfilling your purpose!** That was His purpose. In Jeremiah 1:5 we read, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee..." In the New International Version that same verse reads: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart..." It is somehow easier to believe this about Jesus than it is ourselves. Somehow our 'flesh' doubts that we were just as called as Jesus was. Doesn't the Word say that Jesus is our example? Aren't we taught in the scriptures that what Jesus did we, too, are quite capable of doing because of the power Jesus gave us?

**E**ach of us has a choice. The choices we make determine the path we will walk. Jesus had a choice. He came to a crossroads in His life (just as we all do many times) and He chose to say, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" as recorded in Matthew 26:39. Even though it was God's plan for Jesus to die for our sins, it was Jesus' ultimate choice to follow God's plan because He loved us!

**S**omeday, hopefully, when we come to the same crossroad that Jesus did, we will follow the path Jesus followed. Remember every time Jesus called a disciple He said, "Follow me." It is not an easy path, but we are promised a teacher, a comforter, a protector, and a helper.

**U**ntil we reach the point in our life that we willingly lay down our wants, our wishes, our desires, and yes, maybe even our needs and say, "Nevertheless" to our Lord God, we will not reach the full potential God has set us apart to accomplish. God has placed a great mandate upon His people. He equipped us to accomplish this mandate. He gave His Son as an example of the things we CAN accomplish and then He placed His Spirit within us to EMPOWER us to do what He prompts us to do. God will perform the work; are you willing to completely surrender to Him and follow His leading?

**S**ome fear death. Death is so confusing to our flesh. When someone dies many say, 'We lost them.' But, our spirit lives on! It NEVER dies! Satan didn't die (or cease to exist), and he never will. But, one day **God will bind** him. The Bible says in Revelation 20:2 "And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years." One day Satan will be limited in his activities, but until then **We, the Children of God, are to limit his activities.**

How do we limit the activities of our enemy? By the examples Jesus taught: **Number 1: Prayer.** When we truly believe that Prayer is powerful, then we will pray without ceasing! That is the key that Jesus used. Jesus was in constant communication with His Father. Shouldn't we also be in constant communication with Him? **Number 2: Prayer.** Jesus never stopped talking with His Father. Jesus never came to the point where He thought He could do things on His own. Jesus knew He needed His Father constantly in His life! **Number 3: Fasting.** Did Jesus fast? Yes, before He did any miracles on the earth, Jesus fasted 40 days and 40 nights while He was tempted of the devil in the wilderness in Matthew 4:1. Jesus even instructed His disciples that they would need to pray and fast to gain greater faith in Matthew 17:21. This greater faith says, 'Yes, **I can accomplish what God says to do** because God's Word through me will perform it since I am doing my part.' Don't be like Lucy! Follow God!



**So Others Can Live!**