

**11** <sup>n</sup>according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished Does anybody else find it incredible that this language is even used concerning God? He **accomplished** something? **in Christ Jesus our Lord**, Basically, God wanted a family with all kinds of different skin (see verse 15). **12 in whom we have boldness and access** <sup>o</sup>with confidence through faith in Him. **13 Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.** Without a thrilling and obsessive understanding of God's "purpose" and "accomplishment" (3:11) wrought with his energetic and dynamic movement (3:7), we have no "boldness" and will relish no "access" (3:12, 14-15) and will indeed **lose heart in tribulations**. Furthermore, this very bold and thriving access to God (3:12, 14-15) coupled with the stewarding of the Gospel (3:9) achieves on earth what God Has achieved in Heaven (1:22-23).<sup>1</sup>

We should see, then, there is nothing on earth that commands the attention of the non-flesh-and-blood world (6:12) quite like "the church" (3:10), and its counter galactic caste system! Look at this marvelous Christianity that seeks to equalize all human beings in Christ (1:10), whether Jew or Gentile (2:11-3:15). This is such a far cry from Hinduism which holds to a first man *Manu* being created and out of him coming for classes ranging from the rulers (Brahmins)<sup>2</sup> who came out of *Manu*'s head to the Sudras who came from *Manu*'s feet and are the slaves and bottom rung of society—and all of this was chosen for each individual before their conceptions and merely revealed following birth!<sup>3</sup> We must eschew this non Christian idea in every form in the church [the very essence of their religion is "partiality" (predetermined partiality at that), James 2:1-17].<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>n</sup>Eph. 1:4, 11

<sup>o</sup>Heb. 4:16; 10:19, 35; 1 John 2:28; 3:21

<sup>1</sup>As you see His exaltation for the church (1:22-23) enabled gifts to be given (4:7-12) to best showcase Gospel living to those who yet war beneath the abode of Christ (3:10) where we abide in Christ (1:3).

<sup>2</sup>One can be reborn as a Brahmin as a result of the wheel of *karma*. In other words, you are a particular ethnicity because of the actions of a previous life. Salvation can also be gained through esoteric knowledge, which is the essence of one of Hindu's offspring named Buddhism; The third way salvation can be gained in this awful religion is through devotion (in many ways to "sacred cow" reminiscent of ancient Baal worship *a la* Exodus 32). In other words, you can show yourself as a religious zealot and find salvation (which of course is deliverance from an endless cycle); Josh McDowell & Don Steward *Handbook of Today's Religions* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1983), 290-291.

<sup>3</sup>McDowell & Don Steward *Handbook of Today's Religions* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1983), 289-290; each of these main four castes has countless sub-castes.

<sup>4</sup>The poor, as a matter of fact, are honored (James 1:9-10; 2:5) as the rich are in this world.