

**IT IS HARD FOR THE RICH AND THE WORLDLY WISE TO HUMBLY RESPOND TO CONVICTION OF SIN**

**God chooses for salvation those people who humbly cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction and allow the Spirit to bring them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Having a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, having believed in Jesus, a person is then “in Christ”. Therefore, God only chooses for salvation those people who are “in Christ”. Before creation, God designed the plan that only those who are “in Christ” would be made holy and blameless in His sight. In love, God predestined that all those who are “in Christ” to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ. God chose to freely give His grace to those who are “in Christ”. Those who are “in Christ” are in the One He loves. “In Christ” people have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.**

**Having entered into Christ, people are chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will. Having believed, people are marked “in Christ” with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance to the praise of His glorious grace.**

**It is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. Only those who recognize themselves as poor “in Spirit” will seek restoration with God. The rich and the worldly wise don’t naturally recognize their need for anything. Yet God still uses the circumstances of life to convict even the rich and the worldly wise. Even in their pursuit of a godless world they are confronted by the undeniable God of Creation. Only pride will keep them withdrawn from their Creator. There are many examples of scientists who in their pursuit of a godless Universe changed to pursuit of God because of the evidence. God has given evidence so that men may seek Him and find Him.**

**Reading Scripture with clarity:**

**Matthew 19:23-26**

**Ephesians 1:1-14**

**Acts 17:24-31**