

You've Been Accepted

College Acceptance Response Video

Dear Admissions Committee:

Having reviewed the many rejection letters I have received in the last few weeks, it is with great regret that I must inform you I am unable to accept your rejection at this time.

This year, after applying to a great many colleges and universities, I received an especially fine crop of rejection letters. Unfortunately, the number of rejections that I can accept is limited.

Each of my rejections was reviewed carefully and on an individual basis. Many factors were taken into account - the size of the institution, student-faculty ratio, location, reputation, costs and social atmosphere.

I am certain that most colleges I applied to are more than qualified to reject me. I am also sure that some mistakes were made in turning away some of these rejections. I can only hope they were few in number.

I am aware of the keen disappointment my decision may bring. Throughout my deliberations, I have kept in mind the time and effort it may have taken for you to reach your decision to reject me.

Keep in mind that at times it was necessary for me to reject even those letters of rejection that would normally have met my traditionally high standards.

I appreciate your having enough interest in me to reject my application. Let me take the opportunity to wish you well in what I am sure will be a successful academic year.

SEE YOU IN THE FALL!

Sincerely,
Paul Devlin

The Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul wrote us an acceptance letter.

Ephesians 1:1-6

Who is really saved?

- Much debate & discussion
- Holy Wars
- Gatlinburg street witnessing story

Power verbs from text

- Blessed
- Chosen
- Predestined
- Adopted
- Redeemed
- Forgiven
- Made known
- Abound
- Sealed
- Guaranteed

Blessed: not earned—received

Predestined

- If you have the testimony of Christ, you are predestined.

- Adopted sons & daughters
- Siblings were fighting one day. Brian said to Sally in a hateful tone, "You are not really my sister. You were adopted." Sally simply responded, "Mom and Dad got stuck with you. They chose me!"

Accepted

Redemption

- Ransom paid by the blood of Christ
 - **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For **you were bought at a price**; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
 - **Revelation 5:9-10** And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and **have redeemed us to God by Your blood** out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation. And have made us kings and priests to our God; and **we shall reign on the earth.**"
- Curse of the law removed—**Galatians 3:13-14** Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Sealed

- **John 14:16-17** And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.
- **Romans 8:15-17** For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.
- **1 John 2:24-29**
 - Do not let anyone deceive you (lead you astray)!
 - Anointing (Holy Spirit) living in you
 - "No need for anyone to teach you"
 - If someone tries to deceive you (intimidate you) by telling you that you are not really saved BECAUSE: baptized wrong, in wrong church, don't speak in tongues, Democrat/Republican, believe wrong about creation or end times, smoke, drink a little, say some bad words some times, etc.
 - You don't need them to "teach" you. You don't need their validation, because you have the Holy Spirit inside of you.
- **1 John 5:11-13**
 - You are good enough! (Blessed with every spiritual blessing; chosen, accepted, sealed)
 - Inheritance
 - God's promises belong to you, as much as anyone else
 - You are qualified by Christ's blood & by the riches of His grace
 - You are valuable, because value is determined by the price paid.

You are not qualified to judge my salvation! We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give account of our lives.

Will you have confidence on that day? Do you have the seal of the Holy Spirit?

You've Been Accepted

Why do people believe that they are not worthy of receiving good things from God?

Who is really saved?

Read Ephesians 1:1-6

- ▲ What verbs do you find in this text?
- ▲ What do these verbs express concerning our relationship with God?
- ▲ What does it mean to be sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- ▲ What does it mean that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?
- ▲ How do you glorify God in your body?

Read Revelation 5:9-10

- ▲ What does it mean to be kings and priests to our God?
- ▲ How do you reign on the earth? What does this mean?

Read Romans 8:15-17

- ▲ How does fear put people into bondage?
- ▲ What is the witness of the Spirit?
- ▲ What does it mean to be an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ?

Read 1 John 2:24-29

- ▲ Why do people feel the need to question the validity of another's salvation experience?
- ▲ How can a person be confident in his or her salvation? What is real validation of one's relationship with God?
- ▲ How does confidence or the lack thereof affect a person's relationship with God?