

# The Pursuit of Excellence

A Publication of Brad Brede Ministries

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## God is for You!

There is a truth that is absolutely clear within the Scriptures which is that God is for us and not against us.

In Romans 8:31, the Apostle Paul boldly says, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

What "things" is he referring to that inspired him to make such a bold statement? An examination of the scriptures that surround this verse will answer that question.

First, in verse 28, we are assured that all things are going to work out for our good because God is a partner in our labor if we love Him and are living according to His plan.

Then, verse 29 says that God foreknew us and planned for us to be conformed to the image of His Son - share inwardly His likeness.

The word "predestinate" is used in the King James Version. We must not let that word disturb us. In the context in which it is used here, it simply means that God prearranged or preplanned for everyone to be born-again as described in the third chapter of the book of John.

### You are invited!

Jesus taught that we must be born of the Spirit to experience eternal life. This rebirth is a recreation of the human spirit by the Holy Spirit. All the old things pass away and all things become new and are of God (2 Corinthians 5:17-19).

This spiritual rebirth is a consequence of believing in and receiving Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior (John 1:12; Romans 10:8-10; 1 John 5:11-13).

Jesus is the "firstborn among many brethren" according to Romans 8:29. If there is a firstborn, then there is a second, third, fourth, and so forth. Jesus took upon Himself the sins of the whole world and died spiritually but was reborn and paved the way for many to be saved.

It goes on to say in Romans 8:30 that those whom God prearranged to be conformed to the image of His Son, He also called.

This word "called" means *invited*. To invite

means *to ask somebody to come or to go somewhere or to do something*.

We sometimes send out invitations to a party or special event. We may make all the arrangements and preparations for that event but people must still choose to accept our invitation and come.

God has made all the arrangements for what He is doing and has invited us to come. However, it is our choice whether to accept or reject His invitation.

The word "invite" also means *to offer an incentive, to entice, to increase the likelihood of*. Oftentimes, in our invitations, we include descriptions of food, games, prizes, and other enticing things because we want to increase the likelihood that our invitees will attend.

God so much wants us to accept His invitation and join His family - His party - that He entices us to come. He has promised healing, prosperity, joy, peace, victory, success, and many other blessings to those who join Him (2 Peter 1:3,4).

### You are worthy!

God has also made us worthy to attend His party. Romans 8:30 says, "...and whom he called, them he also justified." This word "justified" means *to render just or innocent*. To justify means *to judge, regard, or treat as righteous and worthy of salvation; free from sin*.

Second Corinthians 5:21 says, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

This righteousness is a right-standing with God. It indicates that we can stand in the presence of God without any guilt, shame, or condemnation. Those who accept the invitation by believing in the Lord Jesus and what He has done for them are made worthy to stand in God's presence.

This righteousness is also a position. As Christians, we are seated together with Christ (Ephesians 2:6). We are children of God (Romans 8:16,17). There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:35-39).

We must get it settled that God is for us and not against us. Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore being



### Brad's Itinerary:

Xtreme Life Training Center  
Willmar, MN - Oct. 8-12

Word of Faith Family Church  
Great Falls, MT - Oct. 14, 21 PM

Love and Faith Fellowship  
Kalispell, MT - Oct. 21 AM

AFCM Meeting  
Moorhead, MN - Oct. 26

Xtreme Life Training Center  
Willmar, MN - Oct. 29-Nov. 2

Break Forth Bible Church  
Glendive, MT - Nov. 4 AM

Word of Faith Family Church  
Great Falls, MT - Nov. 4 PM

AFCM Meetings  
Helena, MT - Nov. 5  
Billings, MT - Nov. 6

Word of Faith Family Church  
Great Falls, MT - Nov. 11

Xtreme Life Training Center  
Willmar, MN - Nov. 13-16, 19, 20

Faith Hope Love  
Moorhead, MN - Nov. 18 AM, PM

Word of Faith Family Church  
Great Falls, MT - Nov. 25, Dec. 2

AFCM Meetings  
Sioux Falls, SD - Dec. 6  
Des Moines, IA - Dec. 7  
Auburn, NE - Dec. 8

Grace Community Church  
Rockport, MO - Dec. 9

AFCM Meeting  
Savage, MN - Dec. 13

justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

We may struggle with the cravings of the flesh, carnal thoughts in the mind, worldly sins, and the devil, but God is not against us. He is not our problem. We need to grasp the fact that we have peace with God. He is always for us!

## You are magnificent!

Romans 8:30 continues by saying, "...whom he justified, them he also glorified." This word "glorified" means *to render or esteem glorious*. Glorious means *beautiful in a way that inspires wonder or joy, so good or distinguished as to merit praise and lasting fame, magnificent*.

God has made us magnificent. Those that receive Jesus Christ and are born-again are made so good that they deserve lasting fame. They will stand for all of eternity as symbols of God's love and grace.

The Apostle Paul speaks of similar things in the

book of Ephesians. He says that we have been chosen, accepted, redeemed, forgiven, and sealed (Ephesians 1:3-14). He states that we have been given an inheritance and are joint heirs with Christ (Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:17).

Ephesians 1:8 says that God "hath abounded toward us." He has lavished these things upon us. Lavish means *expending or bestowing profusely, to be extravagant with something*.

God went all-out when it came to us. He did not even spare His own Son (Romans 8:32). He made all the arrangements, sent out the invitations, made us worthy to be in His presence, and then lavished His blessings upon us.

He gave us everything through His Son and prearranged for us to walk in His incredible goodness (Ephesians 2:10). That is how much He loves us!

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

by Brad Brede



Xtreme Life Training Center began on Monday, September 10, 2007. We have six full-time students. We are off to a great start!

We began with a week of orientation during which the students were taught "The Road to Success." Success requires change but change is painful. Most people will not change until the pain of where they are exceeds the pain of change.

It was followed by the first full week of classes on "The Principles of Organization." People must realize the value of organization and learn how to organize the will of God into their lives.

By the time you read this, several teachers will have already taught life-changing truths and principles. We want to especially thank Jim Kaseman for visiting our school and teaching on the subject of "Spiritology."

We have already received several great testimonies from the students about how Xtreme Life Training Center is changing their lives.

### Class Audits:

Adults of any age may audit three subjects per school year without enrolling as a student.

The following subjects are presently available: Fundamentals of Finances (Oct. 8-12), The God Kind of Love (Oct. 16-19), Vision and Evangelism (Oct. 23-26), Discovering Your Gifts (Oct. 30-Nov. 2), Giving, the Way of Living (Nov. 6-9), Handyman Basics (Nov. 13-16, 19-20), Introduction to

Finances (Nov. 26-30), Missions (Dec. 4-7), Cooking for Life (Dec. 10-14), Keeping Your Finances Organized and Avoiding the Pitfalls (Dec. 17-21).

More subjects will be available beginning in January. Please contact our office for more information.

### Next Year:

We are already planning for next year and ready to receive applications. We remind you that our program is not just for those who have recently graduated from high school. It is designed to minister to all adults 18-28 years of age.

We are passionate about ministering to young adults. This age group has been somewhat neglected in the church and the result is that many are being pulled into the world. The Assemblies of God conducted a 10-year study and found 75 percent loss of their students within one year of high school graduation. The Southern Baptists found that number to be even higher at 88 percent loss. Josh McDowell Ministries reports 94 percent fallout within two years of high school graduation. Other surveys indicate that only about 30 percent return to church.

If you or someone you know wants to be thoroughly equipped to succeed in life, then Xtreme Life Training Center is the place to be. Make plans to attend and send others our way.

Rev. Bradley and Patricia Brede hold ordination credentials with the Association of Faith Churches and Ministers. Brad Brede Ministries was established after twenty years of successful pastoral ministry.

Brad and Patty have faithfully served as AFCM Regional Directors since 1988. They travel extensively promoting the vision of AFCM, encouraging and equipping pastors, and strengthening churches.

Brad and Patty have established several youth camps beginning in 1994. They founded Xtreme Passion in 2005 and Xtreme Life Training Center in 2007 - ministries devoted to helping teenagers and young adults pursue the purposes of God.

You may become a ministry partner by joining our Par Excellence Club. Please, contact us for details.

The Pursuit of Excellence is published as a ministry of Brad Brede Ministries. Your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated. If you have been blessed by this issue of The Pursuit of Excellence or desire prayer, we would like to hear from you.

If you desire additional information about Brad Brede Ministries or to receive a list of powerful teaching materials from Rev. Brede, please contact our ministry office.

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## New Fall Classes

Xtreme Life Training Center

Beginning September 8, 2008  
Willmar, Minnesota

Preparing young people for life,  
not just a career!

Please contact us  
for additional information.

Visit us at:  
[www.xtremelifetc.com](http://www.xtremelifetc.com)