

“Predestination- Election and calling”



Ephesians 1:3-14

Sunday, November 21, 2021

*3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, **4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.***

*7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. **11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.***

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory”.

The Bible uses words such as “choose,” “chosen,” “predestinate,” “foreknowledge,” “determinate,” and “call” to indicate that God has entered into a special relationship with certain individuals and groups through whom He has decided to fulfill His purpose within the history of salvation.

The two major camps of the past

John Calvin- 1509-1564



James Arminius- 1560-1609



Many join the camp of these men and I believe that we are limited in understanding exactly what these men said. It's impossible to see where they truly stood without engaging in conversation with them.

There are Arminiasts, Calvinists, hyper Calvinists , Calminians

❖ **supralapsarianism** **Pelagianism**

- **Having a greater IQ does not give a person an advantage in understanding the Bible** unlike physics or chemists
- **People who lived many years ago are not more godly than present day Christians**

We must understand the Bible and seek to live by its truths. What a precious thing we have- knowing God and His Word! Wow!

One problem with debatable subjects and differing opinions is that any sincere believer is convinced that the Bible clearly teaches their personal view! And we think it is so easy to get!!!! The college we choose has a major impact on our theology and/or the books we decide to read do as well.

John 15:16; You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, that you love one another.

John 6:44- No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

2 Peter 3:9- The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2 Timothy 1:9- Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

Romans 8-10- critical passage

Romans chapter 3

T-U-L-I-P

Philip Melancthon, the great Reformation theologian, once said to his friend Martin Luther, "This day you and I will discuss the governance of the universe." What Luther said in response was unexpected: "This day you and I will go fishing and leave the governance of the universe to God." (Our Daily Bread, March-May, 1996).

The doctrine we talk about today is beyond our human ability to understand. It must be spirit led totally and God's desire is that we all become one. (John 17)

I'm not willing to fight with others about this subject, but always willing to listen to other's views as we seek to determine right thinking. My boxing gloves are not on this morning!

I am opposed to the thinking that a loving God would create a person so that their sole purpose at the end is to burn in hell forever.

I believe in free will and I believe that a person must respond to the gospel- Whosoever calls upon the Lord shall be saved----- that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

My plan today is to examine a particular passage and try to explain what is being said. I know this is a very deep study and that there are a lot of considerations in examining Biblical passages.

Many reformers have committed to study the early catechisms on the same level as the word of God. I personally disagree with this strategy.

My message today will deal with the amazing declaration that God has predestined us to a holy purpose.

Exodus 9:16- But indeed for this *purpose* I have raised you up, that I may show My power *in* you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. ¹⁷ As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go.

Romans 8:28-29- ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Two major factors:

⇒ **What I believe.**

⇒ **How that impacts my life today.**

Having a deep theological mindset and then not loving my brothers and sisters the way I should is a huge contradiction. Or being able to give you my belief on the end times and yet not having a dynamic marriage relationship is also a huge contradiction.

Ill.- daily discussions with Steve

The elevated themes of Ephesians make it highly praised and prized by commentators. Ephesians has been called “the Queen of the Epistles,” “the quintessence of Paulinism,” “the divinest composition of man” and even “the Waterloo of commentators.” Some say that Ephesians reads “like a commentary on the Pauline letters” and probably it has been best termed “the crown of Paulinism.” (Bruce)

- **3 Characteristics of predestination**

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

➤ **It was according to His plan**

God has an incredible plan for every believer in Christ today. It is important to note that everyone who says they are a believer does not make them a believer. Saying the words in a sample prayer is not the way to be saved.

We see three aspects of God's plan working together. It begins with His **purpose**, then the **counsel of His will**, and finally results in His **work**.

2 Timothy 1:9 **God has a plan for my life!**

Jeremiah 1:4 Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." 6 Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." 7 But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord." 9 Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

29:11- 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Stedman considering the significance of "**Chosen in him before the foundation of the world!**" asks "Do you see what that does for our sense of identity as Christians? We are not afterthoughts in God's working. We are not accidental members of his body. There are no second class citizens in the church

of Jesus Christ; we are all equal, chosen of the Father, selected to be members of his family, added to the new creation, the new order that God is producing in this world. What a fantastic privilege! It is not because of anything in us, but because of everything in him. ([Ephesians 1::3-14](#))

Spurgeon has an interesting comment writing that "If God hadn't chosen me before the foundation of the world, He wouldn't choose me now!"

His purpose - God has an eternal **purpose** for all things. If God is God at all, He is sovereign. He cannot work independently of His own nature, for then He would cease to be God, something that is impossible. He is a wise God; therefore, His eternal purpose is a wise one. He is a powerful God; therefore, He is able to accomplish what He purposes. He is a loving God; therefore, what He purposes will manifest His love. He is an unchanging God; therefore, His purpose is unchanging.

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

➤ **It was for the purpose of His glory**

God has such a plan and it's always for His glory and for His glory alone.

1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 4:15

Any understanding of God's sovereign choosing that diminishes our personal responsibility for personal holiness and sanctification falls far short of the whole counsel of God.

Psalm 86:12; Matthew 5:16; Romans 15:6; 1 Corinthians 6:20; Revelation 15:4
Isaiah 42:8-12; Romans 5:2; John 17
1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 4:9-11

➤ **It was for the rest of eternity**

What about those who depart from the faith? They were among us and not of us.

1 John 2:18-20

John 21:18, 19

1 Peter 1:2-9- elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: ⁷ that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: ⁸ whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: ⁹ receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.

Train track illustration



God's sovereignty and man's choice human responsibility with divine sovereignty.

Ephesians 2:8-9- what's the gift?

Bottom line- we all have an understanding of the Scriptures in determining our view of this subject.

The beautiful doctrine of salvation has the precious element of predestination, calling and election. I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that I have been elected by God!!!

How is this impacting my life today?

The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation! Whether or not I understand the dynamics of exactly how this all works I still have it. **The efficacy of the blood of Christ!**

Ill.- Light switch- live wire

Dangers:

- ✦ Thinking badly of other people or denominations.
- ✦ Pride and jealousy- Reformed- elitist group? I'm in reform school!!!
- ✦ Lack of spirit led living

Positives

- A hunger for the word of God
- A greater appreciation of your salvation
- A great desire to follow God in practical, godly living

Next week the amazing meaning of propitiation!