

PREDESTINATION

Chosen from Eternity

Why are you here in class today?

- You decided it would be beneficial?
- You always come to Sunday Bible class?
- God decided you would be here today even before you were born?

- This is the beginning of the problem of understanding the doctrine of predestination.

Does this doctrine help or hinder?

- *“This doctrine affords glorious consolation under the cross and amid temptations, namely that God in His counsel, before the time of the world, determined and decreed that He would assist us in all distresses, grant patience, give consolation, excite hope, and produce such an outcome as would contribute to our salvation.”*
 - ▣ Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, “Of God’s Eternal Election,” XI 48.
- Predestination- determining something beforehand
- Election- Choosing

A Theologians Final Exam

- Isn't in arrogant or presumptuous to claim that God has chosen you? Can anyone really be sure?
- Should a person accept everything taught by Scripture about this subject?
- Can this doctrine be proven from Scripture?
- Isn't predestination a form of fatalism?
- Do you agree that God has predestined some to eternal life and therefore must have predestined the rest to damnation?

A Theologians Final Exam

- Does predestination ignore human responsibility for repenting and believing in Christ?
- Did God choose people to salvation because of what he foresaw they would do?
- Did God choose people on the basis of the faith He foreknew they would have?
- We are going to need to pray for wisdom as we search for the answers to these questions.

Comfort from Scripture

- ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!
- ³⁴ “Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counselor?”
- ³⁵ “Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay him?”
- ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.
- ▣ -Romans 11:33-36

Predestination/Election

- What makes this topic so controversial?



You know, predestination *would* speed things up on Judgment Day.

Predestination/Election



Predestination/Election



Predestination/Election

CartoonChurch.com



Chosen

- The Bible refers to various acts of election, or choosing by God.
 - Deuteronomy 7:6-8
 - Acts 9:15
 - Luke 6:13
 - Luke 23:35
 - 1 Peter 1:18-20
 - 1 Peter 2:4, 9
 - Colossians 3:12
 - James 2:5
 - 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

Chosen

- Does God choose some people for different tasks?
- How do you feel about this?



PREDESTINATION

Cubby's path in life was set
at a very early age

Ephesians 1:3-14

- According to this passage, what two intended purposes did God have in mind in this election?
- When did this divine election take place?
- What reasons moved God to choose the elect?

Ephesians 1:3-14

- The word translated as “praise be” in Ephesians 1:3 is a form of the same Greek word translated as “blessed” in the same verse.
- Blessings are invocations of well being and good things, pronouncements of well wishing.
- Who speaks these blessings in this passage?
- Does this passage say that God has only predestined some for these blessings?

Chosen to What?

- Who does the choosing?
- Can we choose?
- If human beings are expected to use free will to decide to believe in the Gospel in order to have salvation, why did Paul tell the Ephesians that they were predestined to be saved?
- How does Paul describe humanity before conversion?
 - ▣ See Ephesians 2:1-2
- Can a dead person make a choice?

"I DON'T
REMEMBER
PREDETERMINING
THAT!" —



TBelov

Chosen to What?

- ❑ Fatalism involves the belief that every event is governed by an impersonal fate, or perhaps spirits that have no sympathy with people and their problems.
- ❑ Is predestination just a form of fatalism?



A Brief Overview of Election

- **God wants all people to be saved.**
 - ▣ “[God] wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” -1 Timothy 2:4
 - ▣ “He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” -2 Peter 3:9b
 - ▣ “For God so loved **the world** that he gave his one and only Son...” -John 3:16
- God does not desire the death and damnation of sinners. Any presentation of election that contradicts this fact falls short of the truth of Scripture.

A Brief Overview of Election

- **Christ is the World's Redeemer**
- Since God desires the salvation of all humanity, He redeems all of humanity.
- His work is not performed only for the elect or only for a specific group of people, His redemption is for all.
 - *“In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.”*
 - 2Corinthians 5:19

A Brief Overview of Election

- **God offers salvation through the Gospel.**
- The benefits of Christ's work are freely available to all humanity through the means of grace.
 - ▣ *"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" – Romans 1:16*
 - ▣ *"[The Scriptures] are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." -2 Timothy 3:15*

A Brief Overview of Election

- **God predestines us for Salvation**
 - “Single predestination”
- God has chosen us to be his children. He chooses us to be holy and blameless in His sight. He predestines us for adoption. He chose us in Christ to be his own people.
- He chose us not because of our own holiness or blamelessness, but so that in Christ we might be declared holy and blameless in his sight.
 - “[God] has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time” 2 Timothy 1:9

A Brief Overview of Election

- **Some reject God's gift of salvation.**
- There will be people who reject God's grace and choose to follow their own will and ways.
 - ▣ *"But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger." – Romans 2:8*

A Brief Overview of Election

- The means of Grace, including the Gospel, may be resisted.
 - ▣ *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.” –Matthew 23:37*
 - ▣ *“Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.” –Acts 13:46*

A Brief Overview of Election

- **God is responsible for our salvation.**
- Those who are damned bear the responsibility of their fate.
- We can take no credit for our own salvation.
- Ultimately, those who are in heaven will be there not because of what they have done but because of what God has done for them.
- God gets the credit and honor for our salvation. We didn't deserve it; Christ did.
- All of this is done *“to the praise of his glory”* –Ephesians 1:14

A Brief Overview of Election

- No “double predestination”
- Calvinism- Unconditional election to salvation and damnation
- Lutheranism- Unconditional election to salvation only
- Arminianism- Conditional election in view of foreseen faith or unbelief

- We will spend more time with each of these views in the next few weeks.

Luther on Election

- *Who know whether I am elected to salvation? Answer: Look at the words, I beseech you, to determine how and of whom He is speaking. “God so loved the world,” and “that whosoever believeth in Him.” Now, the “world” does not mean Saints Peter and Paul alone but the entire human race, all together. And no one is here excluded. God’s Son was given for all. All should believe, and all who do believe should not perish, etc. Take hold of your own nose, I beseech you, to determine whether you are not a human being (that is part of the world) and , like any other, belong to the number of those comprised by the word “all.”*