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Predestination in Ephesians Chapter One.

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Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Predestination in Ephesians Chapter One.

Topics.

- God chose us in him before the foundation of the world.
- Predestined according to the purpose of God.
- The promised eternal inheritance God made to Abraham.
- The promised seed of Abraham.

GOD CHOSE US IN HIM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

- **Ephesians 1:4-6:** even as God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Chose (chosen in KJV) in this context means to select and choose out of.

Paul in these verses is not saying that God has predestined some to be saved and some to destruction since that would violate man's free will and any need to proclaim the Gospel. It is certainly true that God desires that all would be saved, but He will never violate another person's will to achieve this. The entire concept of man's free-will would be pointless if God before the foundation of the world predestined that some would be blessed with eternal life and everlasting glory and others were predestined to destruction.

1

If this was the way things were, we would all be totally powerless to make a choice that would change our eternal fate since God according to this idea has pre-determined our end, but the good news is that this is not how God saves sinners to eternal life. To save the lost God invites mankind through the Good News of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to come to him through faith in his Son.

Paul in these verses is stating two things:

1. God the Father predestined before the foundation of the world that those who are saved in Christ should be holy and blameless in love.
2. God predestined that whoever responds to the Gospel with a "yes" would be adopted into His family because of their faith in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

With these two ideas in mind verse four could read:

- Before the foundation of the world God the Father predestined that those who choose to believe in Christ will be made holy and blameless in Christ.

God the Father before the foundations of the world predestined in His eternal foreknowledge that Christ would be the central figure of salvation, then predestined that those who chose from their own free will to accept and believe in Christ as their Saviour God Himself would choose and accept them. God has predestined it this way so that those who seek to know God can be counted righteous and blameless not because of their righteousness, but because of Christ's righteousness. It is by Christ's righteousness a repentant sinner is counted blameless and enters into Christ's family and not by their-own self-righteousness. This pure and free gift of righteousness that God imputes to every faithful brother and sister in Christ will be manifested in its perfect glory when Christ returns and:

- The image of the man of dust that we have been borne with is clothed with the image of the man of heaven and we are all changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet when the dead in Christ are raised imperishable and we are changed so that our perishable body puts on the imperishable, and this mortal body puts on immortality (1 Cor. 15:49-54).

The reason God predestined that while we are living in this body of dust our righteousness would be by faith and God's grace is because while we are alive in this world we live in a fallen and corrupted body with all kinds of sinful aberrations and dysfunctions, (i.e. selfishness, ego, pride, lustful thoughts, jealousies, anger and such like things) and therefore if God had based salvation upon us attaining to every demand of the law and to attaining to the perfect standard of His Holiness not one of us could be saved since no-one can stand before God free of sin, if anyone of us could achieve the glorious state of sinlessness Christ died for no reason. It was the purpose and will of God the Father before the foundation of the world that He would adopt those who belong to Christ into His eternal family and therefore God predestined and promised that He would put His love on those who freely from their own will choose to believe in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ and faithfully follow him.

PREDESTINED ACCORDING TO THE PURPOSE OF GOD

- **Ephesians 1:11-12:** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

In these verses it is not people that are predestined according to the purpose of God, but the inheritance. God according to his will has, predestined an inheritance for those who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The inheritance refers to the following oath God made to Abraham saying, "By myself have I sworn to Abraham as an everlasting covenant" that:

- His heir will come from his own seed and from his own bowels and be his heir.
- His seed will multiply as the stars of heaven and the sand on the sea-shore.
- His seed will possess the gate of his enemies.
- His seed will inherit all the land of Israel for an everlasting possession.
- In his seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed.
- God will be the God of his seed.

This is the promised inheritance and everlasting covenant God made to Abraham. Paul wrote:

- Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed which is Christ (Gal. 3:16)

Paul in this verse reveals the eternal wonder and majestic glory of the everlasting promise God made to Abraham thousands of years ago which is the glorious truth that the promised seed of Abraham is the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gen. 12:1-7) (Gen. 13:14-16) (Gen. 15:1-6, 18) (Gen. 15:18) (Gen. 17:1-8; 15-19) (Gen. 17:21) (Gen. 21:12) (Gen. 22:11-18).

Some may think the promises made to Abraham was for the Jews only, but Paul magnificently explains in the next chapter (Ephes. 2:11-22) that the promises of God have been extended to all nations by being baptised

into the Lord Jesus Christ and clearly shows that the promises made to Abraham and to his seed the Lord Jesus Christ are not limited to the Jews only but embraces whoever will come to God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Rom. 4:13) (Rom. 4:16-18) (Gal. 3:16) (Gal. 3:27).

For further information concerning the promised seed of Abraham see:

- Galatians chapter 3 in, Commentary New Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The fulfilment and absolute awesome wonder, splendour and breath-taking magnificence of God's promise to Abraham will reach its climax when the Lord returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

We must always keep in mind when we are speaking of God's sovereignty, God's timeless mind, predestination and God's foreknowledge that it is with a fallen and finite mind that is limited to time (as we understand it) that we are attempting to understand God's eternal wisdom and God's eternal knowledge which is far higher than our limited fallen mortal mind can comprehend therefore we should never be dogmatic and absolute in our understandings and explanations concerning God's eternal sovereignty, but always allow for certain amount of mystery.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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