

# The Bible Doctrine of Predestination

# Review of Last Lesson

- Compared the selection of the Jews as God's chosen people with the Calvinist doctrine of Unconditional Election
- Showed the inconsistency of Unconditional Election with the nature of the gospel

# Unconditional Election

“Predestination, according to Calvin, is the eternal and unchangeable decree of God by which he foreordained, for his own glory and the display of his attributes of mercy and justice, a part of the human race, without any merit of their own, to eternal salvation, and another part, in just punishment of their sin, to eternal damnation.” - Creeds of Christendom, by Philip Schaff, Vol. 1, Section 59.

# The Gospel Is For All

- In Jesus' teaching (Matt. 20:1-16; 22:2-14; Lk. 13:23-30; John 10:16)
- The renewed hope of Eph. 2:11-19
- The mystery of Eph. 3:1-6
- The eternal purpose of Eph. 3:8-11
- The theme of heavenly praise (Rev. 5:8-10; 7:9-10; 15:3-4)

# Revelation 5:8-10 ESV

And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and **by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,** 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

# Revelation 7:9-10 ESV

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, **from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,** standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

# The Superiority of the Gospel

- No limitations on who can be saved
- The middle wall of separation is removed
- Ended enmity between people because all are equal before God
- All can be citizens of the kingdom
- All can be members of the household of God.
- Demonstrates the wisdom of God
- Demonstrates the praiseworthiness of God

# Unconditional Election vs The Universal Gospel

- Replaces the middle wall of separation with an insurmountable wall that reaches to heaven
- Makes the gospel inferior to the Old Law in providing access to God (Ex. 12:43-49; Isa. 56:6-7)

# Goals of this Study

- Determine the correct understanding of Bible predestination
- Illustrate the glory of God and His truth

# Questions About Predestination

- What is predestination?

# Predestined: Its Meaning

Definition: "to mark out beforehand, to determine before, foreordain" - W. E. Vine

"For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose **determined before** to be done.

- Acts 4:27-28

# Questions About Predestination

- What is predestination?
- What was predetermined?

# Ephesians 1:3-6 ESV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, **that we should be holy and blameless before him.** In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us **for adoption as sons** through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

# What was Predetermined?

1. That we should be holy and blameless
2. That we should be adopted as sons

# Questions About Predestination

- What is predestination?
- What was predetermined?
- When was it predetermined?

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# Ephesians 3:4-11 ESV

When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. 6 ... 7 Of this gospel I was made a minister ... 9 ... to bring to light for everyone what is **the plan of the mystery hidden for ages** in God who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was according to **the eternal purpose** that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

# What was Predetermined?

- Eph. 1:3-6 describes
  - The plan for the salvation of some
  - Determined before the foundation of the world
  - Calls it predestination
- Eph. 3:4-11 describes
  - A plan
  - Determined in the eternal purpose of God from the beginning of the ages
  - Calls it a mystery revealed by the gospel
- **COULD THESE BE THE SAME?**

# What was Predetermined?

- Eph. 1:3-6 describes
  - The plan for the salvation of some
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- Eph. 3:4-11 describes
  - A plan for the salvation of ALL
  - Determined in the eternal purpose of God from the beginning of the ages
  - Calls it a mystery revealed by the gospel
- **COULD THESE BE THE SAME? YES**

# Questions About Predestination

- What is predestination?
- What was predetermined?
- When was it predetermined?
- Who was it predetermined about?

# Ephesians 3:6-11 ESV

**This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs**, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 7 ... 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of **the mystery hidden for ages** in God who created all things, ... 11 ... according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

# About Whom was it Predetermined?

- Eph. 1:3-6 describes
  - The plan for the salvation of
    - “We/Us”
    - Holy and blameless
    - Adopted sons
- Eph. 3:4-11 describes
  - A plan for the salvation of Gentiles
    - Fellow-heirs
    - Members of the same body
    - Includes the Gentiles
    - “You” (v. 1, 2, 4)
- Are these part of the same foreordained plan? YES

# Ephesians 1:11-13 ESV

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, 12 so that **we who were the first to hope in Christ** might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him **you also**, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed** with the promised Holy Spirit,

# Romans 1:15-16 ESV

So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for **salvation to everyone** who believes, **to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**

# Ephesians 1:11-13 ESV

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been chosen according to the purpose of his will, **“Jews first”** all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that **we who were the first to hope in Christ** might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him **you also**, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed** with the promised Holy Spirit,

**“Also the Gentiles”**

# About Whom was it Predetermined?

- Eph. 1:3-6 describes
  - The plan for the salvation of ALL
    - “We/Us”
    - Holy and blameless
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- Eph. 3:4-11 describes
  - A plan for the salvation of ALL
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- Are these part of the same foreordained plan? YES

# Questions About Predestination

- What is predestination?
- What was predetermined?
- When was it predetermined?
- Who was it predetermined about?
- Are there any conditions to this predestination?

# Romans 8:28-30 ESV

And we know that **for those who love God** all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.  
29 For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many **brothers**.

# The Double Choice

## God Chose Those who...

- Love God
- Are conformed to the image of Jesus

My choice?



# Questions About Predestination

- What is predestination?
- What was predetermined?
- When was it predetermined?
- Who was it predetermined about?
- Are there any conditions to this predestination?
- What are the results of predestination?

# Romans 8:28-30 ESV

And we know that for those who love God **all things work together for good**, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called **he also justified**, and those whom he justified **he also glorified**.

# The Bible Doctrine of Predestination

Before the world began God decided...

- To accept men and women
  - Through adoption and conformity to Christ
  - Into His family
  - To enjoy justification, glorification and inheritance
- And that this acceptance would be available to ALL HUMANITY
  - Who would accept its conditions
  - As announced through the gospel

# The Gospel is for All

- And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of **the world**. (1 John 4:14)
- For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who **desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)
- 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 Peter 3:9)

# Ephesians 3:8-10 ESV

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, 10 **so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known** to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

# Mark 16:15-16 ESV

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 **Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved**, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

# My Destiny

My choice

## God Chose Those who...

- Love God
- Are conformed to the image of Jesus

