

Title: Predestination

Text: Ephesians 1:5-6

Take your Bibles and turn with me to Ephesians chapter 1. We are looking in this wonderful First chapter of Ephesians at some of the spiritual blessings that God has given to us. When we received Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord, at that moment the Bible says that we were blessed with every spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ. And now we are identifying what some of those blessings are.

Our first blessing comes out off verse 4: "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him." We have been chosen or set apart by God... WHY?... To be blameless and holy before him.

Now, let's come to <sup>a second</sup> ~~another~~ blessing... Vs 5

(Read Eph. 1:5-6)

Prayer

Well, to talk about predestination is not the most popular subject among people. I was ask once: "Do you believe in predestinaation?....." And I responded..."WHY! IS THERE A CHOOSE?"

I don't believe the person who ask the question was to amused. But, friends, it is in the Bible. And we as Baptist believe that the Bible is the very word of God. So, it is not a question of Do we believe in predesitnation. The question is "WHAT DO WE UNDERSTAND IT TO MEAN?....."

Just as we had some question related to the subject of "Chooosen"... so there are many questioned related to our understanding of predestination.

Let me share a few of them with you....

(1 ) Is predestination the plan by which those who receive Christ will become the sons of God, or is it the reason why they become believers in the first place?.....

Does God predestine some people to be saved, and other to be lost?.....

Here is another question that is often ask: "If predestination is what I think it is, then it seems to elimtate man's free will?

Here is another one: "If our salvation is predetermined, what difference does our actions and conduct make after all?.....

O.K. that is the problem. Now, let's look at the Scripture

The whole meaning and understanding of the Word "Predestination" deals with the plan by which God chose us. HOW DID GOD CHOSE US. Vs 4 says that God chose us before the foundation of the world." O.K. How did he do that? This involves the whole problem of predestination.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF PREDESTINATION?.....

*me* I was once told that it means "PRESBYTERIANISM".....oes it?.....  
Oh, no...it is in the Bible. So, it cannot ~~be~~ mean that. Because we Baptist believe the Bible, right?.....

The question is; What do we understand it to mean?

*First* The Greek word involves two words.  
is ~~not~~ in that word ~~is~~ our English word "Horzan". A "horzan" is a boundary you see out there somewhere. It marks out a boundary.

And also with that word is a preposition <sup>means</sup> ~~mean~~ "before hand"....

So, the word "predestination" means "to mark out a boundary before hand."  
It means to lay out a plan and a blue print ahead of time.

O.K....according to the Bible God chose us before the foundation of the World. And He did this by means of predestination..

You say, "Tremendous!! What does that mean? What does it mean to mark out a boundary or plan ahead of time?"

(1) First of all, in <sup>this</sup> ~~his~~ plan or boundary is based upon God's own decision.  
Never forget that. It is not based on what man does. Vs 5 says "He predestined us."...He planned this ahead of time. Before the worlds were ~~AM~~ ever created He (God) planned or predestined to Chose us.

*and* By the way, the word "Chose" in Vs 4 means literally "to chose out for ones self." It is in the middle voice in Greek, meaning: "I chose it in and of myslef." WHY DID GOD CHOSE US? Answer: for himself....He chose, literally "out of something"....Out of the main stream of manking, God chose out of that group, a people for himself. And he did this by means of predestination.....

He made a plan to see that everyone who he chose is going to receive Christ. How about that? It is based on a decision of God.

Turn ~~back~~ <sup>over</sup> to Romans 8:28. Romans 8:28... ~~We read~~, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

That is a great verse. It provides hope and confidence to the believer. Now, look at Vs 29 .."For"...The reason why God causes all things to work together is "For ~~whom~~ He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His son, that he might be the first-born among many brethren, and whom ~~he~~ predestined, these He also called; and whom he called, these He ~~also~~ justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."

Notice, you don't glorify yourself. You don't justify yourself. You don't call yourself. You don't predestine yourself. You don't know yourself. This is all rooted in what God does. His foreknowledge is rooted in his decision. [The reason why God knows who is going to be saved is because he laid out a plan himself for it completely. Nothing is missing. No loss ends. And though it might bewilder us, and though our life-styles often betray what we say we believe, only God really knows. And in the mind of God, He has made the decision of how to accomplish <sup>the plan</sup> it. And he did it through his own son Jesus Christ, according to Ephesians 1:5. No mix ups here. Whoever God knows is going to be saved, will be saved.

The means by which that occurs is a different subject. But God ordains the means as well as the ends. It is his <sup>knowledge</sup> ~~will~~ that certain ones be saved. <sup>IT is his Will or desire That all would be saved.</sup> ~~And I don't understand it all.~~ But God knows who will be saved. ~~AND who will NOT be saved~~ And that is the teaching of the Bible.

And I want to tell you that that is great comfort and security in a world that frankly is quite messed up. I think that most christian problems are rooted in the fact of a misunderstanding of who God is and what he is trying to do in this world. God is not helpless. He is not dependent upon man. God has made this decision. And he will accomplish <sup>his plan</sup> it. According to Ephesians 1:11 "everything is being worked out after the council of his own will."

You say, "If that is true, why do anything?"

Some times our questions reveal that we don't understand how that plan operates. To those who know the Lord, that question is ridiculous. What right do I have to say to the one who made me, "WHY DID YOU MAKE ME LIKE THIS?"

My position is to <sup>glorify</sup> ~~story~~ and to praise his name and to serve him. <sup>and to witness</sup> ~~That is~~

<sup>The</sup> very reason why he created me and why he chose me. When my heart rebels against that and says, "I don't want that. I want to do my own thing, I don't care what you say about God."

I only reveal God's plan being worked in me, even in my rebellion, and my sin.

Now, I have used this illustration before. It is a dumb little illustration, but it does illustrate the point.

One day I was having <sup>my</sup> problems with this. I was troubled about God's sovereignty versus man's free will. So, one day I pick a dandelion and I was going to pull off the leaves one by one. And I was going to have ~~breakfast~~ lunch. And I wandered in my mind if God knew that I was going to have lunch. So I started pulling off <sup>these</sup> ~~this~~ leaves, and saying: I am going to have lunch.... I am not going to have lunch.....I am going to have lunch...and so forth.

~~See~~ You see, I am troubled by the fact that God already knows whether I ~~am~~ going to ~~eat~~ eat or not, and yet, I am ~~sitting~~ setting here ready to made the decision. I am troubled about this.

~~You~~ <sup>you</sup> know, when I got all the pleads off and looked at it, the thing that I findly realized was that God ~~even~~ knew that I was going to use that stupid little dandelion to play that little game.....

~~You~~ <sup>you</sup> know, <sup>who</sup> are we to try and play games with an infinite God? I am finite. I don't understand everything. <sup>True,</sup> ~~and~~ God holds me responsible for my actions. Yet, ~~He~~ <sup>He</sup> is soveriey. I love Him and I thank Him for saving me through Christ. <sup>yet</sup> ~~and~~ I don't understand it all.

But, I sure know what to do about it according to the scripture. It is difficult, I know.

But, remember that God's predestination is based upon uquic designs for the believer. He has a speacil purpose. ~~X~~ <sup>To</sup> my knowledge, not once does the Bible say that we ~~asse~~ are predestined to heaven...'

Although, I believe that is obviously true. To my mind, and knowledge not once does the Bible ever say that anyone is ever predestined to hell.

(2)

What does the Bible mean when it says that God has a plan? He predestinated. <sup>secretly</sup> What did he predestinate us for? What is his purpose for us? Why did he settle this in eternity passed? Why did he not wait for us to decide to receive Christ, and wait for us to live for him? <sup>why?</sup> ~~TWO THINGS?~~

(1) One, according to Ephesians chapter 1:5 the reason why he predestinated us is that we might become his sons, through Jesus Christ. Because he knew that if he didn't plan it, none of us would ever become his children.

According to Vs 5 he predestinated us to adoption as sons. The word "adoption" means to place as an adult son. It means to take some body who is not your rightful son, that is by natural birth, and because you love them or what ever, you go through a ceremony, a legal ceremony of making <sup>him</sup> ~~them~~ your legal son by adoption. And <sup>he</sup> ~~they~~ then receive all the rights, all the inheritance of your family.

You see!!! I am not a son of God by natural <sup>birth</sup> ~~birth~~. I am a son of God by spiritual birth. ~~Therefore~~ Thus, I have been adopted. I was a sinner. I was born in sin. When I accepted Christ, God adopted me and announced me to be his heir.

In Romans 8 it says that we have received the spirit of adoption. The Holy Spirit makes us sons whereby we cry Abba Father. Meaning a close intimate relationship with God. And he said, "If heirs, then heirs with God, and joint-heirs with Christ."....Fantastic.

God takes a sinner who deserves Hell. And because of His plan and His decision, he redeems <sup>him</sup> ~~him~~. And adopts <sup>him</sup> ~~him~~ as his own son.

My position right now. I am a son of God. I am a joint-heir with Jesus Christ. <sup>I have been blessed with these spiritual blessings</sup> ~~I have been blessed with these spiritual blessings~~

What does that mean? I am not at all worried about the gas crises or ~~the~~ inflation. I own it all anyway...

Do you think I am kidding? The Bible says of Jesus Christ that he is the heir of everything. All things, the substance of the universe, is His. And what is His is mine. I am a joint-heir with Christ...



-6

You are not broke. You only think you are.....I wonder if I could use that at the bank tomorrow?.....

*one*

I mean after all the Father is the president of the whole company that owns everything. And we are related to him. It is Abba Father. I am an heir of God. And everything has been promised to me. I can hardly believe this. Some times when I read this I am over whelmed by it. Because you and I both know our hearts. And you know what we really deserve. And to think that God in his love would do this. It is a tremendous truth.

(2) But God's special design for me is not only that I become a son of God through adoption, but that I be conformed to the image of Christ. We read that in Romans 8:29. Whom he foreknew he also predestine to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ,.

You know, God had to plan this whole thing or I never would. My tendency is to go away from ~~that~~ <sup>God</sup>. I don't want to be christ like. I want to be self-like. I am a sinner by nature and choice and acts. And I prove it every day. If it were not for the grace of God, I would never be Christ like.

Predestination is God's plan by which he settles once and for all that everyone who believes in Christ will be conformed to the image of J.C.

Praise the Lord.

The Bible says that when Jesus comes again we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is. And predestination guarantees that fact that I will be like J.C. Praise the Lord. { Because I want to tell you that I know by experience, and so do you, the struggle of trying to be christ-like even when I have the Holy Spirit. Even when I have the word of God. Even when I have the opportunity to reflect <sup>Jesus</sup> in my life. I see the other side of it. Yet, one day, because of God's predestination, I ~~whom am now a son of God~~ will be absolutely perfect like J.C. I will stand in his moral likeness.... No sin..without blemish ....Praise the Lord.

~~.....in all of~~

(3) And one other thing: according to the Bible God's great plan is not only based upon his decision, and on his special designs for the believer, but it is also based upon the death of Jesus Christ.

Because if you will look closely at Vs 5 it says, "He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ." Christ is the channel through which the plan is accomplished. Revelation tells us in chapter 13 that He was a lamb slain before the foundation of the world.

The method by which God would make us sons, makes us conform to Christ, is through his son Jesus Christ. He settled that before the world was ever created. Christ was not killed by people, nor by chance, nor by intrapment. It was under the divine plan of God that Jesus died on that cross. It is through J.C. that <sup>all spiritual Blessings are</sup> ~~it is~~ accomplished.

I love the last part of Vs 6, "He freely bestowed"....Literally, "He graced on us in the beloved, the beloved one." Namely, Jesus....Beautiful....

How do I receive <sup>all Blessings</sup> ~~salvation~~?.... Through Jesus Christ and the marivolous grace of God. And I thank him for it...

And I trust you are thankful also. And if you don't know Christ, I pray that you will receive him today as your Lord and Saviour...

(4) How, finally what is the purpose behind predestination? Why did God predestine you and me?....Why didn't he leave it up to us?....Why?...

Vs 6 says, "to the praise of the glory of His grace." Grace gives to us what we don't deserve.

I will glorify God in heaven ~~and~~, not because of anything that I did to get there. But, because I will realize it was God and His grace. Therefore, I will praise Him....

"Thou art worthy, O Lord" says Revelation 4:11, "to recieve glory and honor and dominen, and power, and blessing for thou hast created all things. For your pleasure they were created." Praise God - (Praise)

Then the last phrase of Vs 5 is so wonderful. "According to the kind intention of his will."

And what this is saying is that all of this plan that we have been talking about, pleases God. It bleases God....It honors Him..It praise Him....

And that encourages and blesses my life and heart. And I hope it does the same for you.

Shall we close in prayer