

GRACE GAZETTE

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Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Hebrews 12:12-13

OUR PREDESTINATOR

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. Ephesians 1:4-6

Paul described the natural rebellion of mankind against the TRUE and LIVING GOD when he wrote to the church at Rome. *“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever.” (Rom 1:21-25)*

Natural men are not averse to the concept of a sovereign ruler who does according to his own will. They just believe that this sovereign is themselves. They are not against preaching about a choice being made unto salvation, they simply believe that they are the ones who are both able and willing to make that choice. They will rise up in rebellion, however when the claims of the ONE ABSOLUTE RULER is proclaimed. HE has said, *“I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.” (Isa 45:5-7)*

For the most part they will often acknowledge the power of the LORD to rule over the natural realm in which they live. They believe that HE will even “intervene” in the affairs of men if enough folks band together and pray, like rubbing Aladdin’s Lamp and waiting for the genie to appear. They actually think that HE is altogether like unto them, and that HE is quite in line with their own notions. (see Ps.50:21) Little do they rejoice that *“All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity. To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?” (Isa 40:17-18)* They will usually grow angry when the utter insignificance of men is set forth as HE declares, *“Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.” (Isa 40:15)*

Predestination is a big word with big implications. Most “preachers” avoid the mention of it even though the scriptures have multitudes of instances where it is both declared and implied. There is probably more false teaching on what the scriptures say about it than the setting forth of the glory of the ONE who is the PREDESTINATOR of all things. A GOD who is an absolute sovereign must of necessity be the ONE who determines all things that come to pass. *“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.” (Isa 46:9-11)* In contrasting the true and living

GOD to the helpless, false gods of man's imaginations, David said, *"But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased."* (Psa 115:3)

While the scriptures have much to say about the general predestination of all things that come to pass, the place wherein we see its greatest glory is in the work of redemption and the appointed REDEEMER marked out by HIM who has a people which HE has loved in CHRIST from before the foundation of the World.

HE has chosen those who were in CHRIST from the beginning. HE has neither left the choice of HIS people up to them to decide their "election" by their free will, nor has HE played eeny-meeny-miny-moe with the human race, in making HIS choice of HIS elect. Rather HE has had a people which HE loved from the beginning, who are in CHRIST according to HIS determination, and HE has chosen them unto salvation by the redemptive work of CHRIST. *"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (2Thess 2:13-14)

HE has predestined this elect people unto the adoption of children. They were HIS from the beginning, but they had no knowledge of their sonship until the appointed hour when HE was pleased to remove the scales of darkness from their eyes and reveal both the glory of CHRIST and their acceptance in the BELOVED. *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."* (Eph 2:4-6) *"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight."* (Col 1:20-22) HE did not need to be "reconciled" to HIS people, but rather has declared the Gospel of the glory of CHRIST, in order to bring about the reconciliation of those who were enemies in their mind, because they loved their sinful way. Yet now, being born again, they have thrown down their arms of rebellion and do gladly own HIM as their FATHER and KING. They see themselves as the sons of GOD in the midst of a crooked and perverse world.

HE has ordained that they be made "accepted in the beloved". *"To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."* (Rom 3:26) There is no charge or blame which can be brought to bear by any accuser against those who are in CHRIST. They do not stand to be judged by the Law, their fellow men, or the Devil and his angels, for they now stand clothed in the perfect righteousness of CHRIST. *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* (2Cor 5:21) *"Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Rom 8:33-39)

We discover the necessity of "predestination" unto SALVATION, when we are made to understand the state of man by nature. Man is not ignorant of the glory of GOD, he simply has no desire to give GOD the glory that is due unto HIM. He will not bow down before HIM nor cast himself upon the mercy of GOD, because he is quite content with his own thoughts about GOD. He believes that partial obedience is the same as obedience and is confident that he is able to approach GOD on his own terms. How often have we heard men say, "the LORD knows my heart", as if this is a source of comfort to them. If any thought should terrify a man it is to consider that "the LORD knows my heart." Only the man whom the LORD has ordained unto SALVATION can understand that it is his sin that separates him from GOD and that he has no means in himself to remedy this situation. Apart from the LORD's calling and the gift of faith which HE determines to grant unto sinners according to HIS determined will, no man will either seek HIM nor find HIM. *"But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."* (John 10:26-27) Do you hear HIM?

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