

## **“NOBODY BELIEVES IN PREDESTINATION ANYMORE”**

By Elder Curtis Pugh (Now with The Lord)

A relative once asked this preacher about the differences between two Presbyterian groups. His answer mentioned that the two Presbyterian groups held somewhat different views of predestination. His relative's reply was, “Predestination! I didn't know anybody believes in predestination anymore!” This relative was an active member of long standing in a Protestant denomination. Perhaps because she never heard any teaching in her church on the subject, she thought that nobody in this modern era still believes in predestination.

Actually, the truth of a thing does not depend on whether it is believed or not. The truth of a religious teaching depends on whether or not the Bible teaches it. Since the words “predestinate” and “predestinated” are found in the Bible, if you believe the Bible you must believe in predestination. The aforementioned words are found as follows: “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren,” (Romans 8:29). “Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified,” (Romans 8:30). “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,” (Ephesians 1:5). In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will,” (Ephesians 1:11).

A careful reading of these four verses along with an examination of their context should convince any unprejudiced person that there is indeed such a thing as predestination. That predestination involves certain individuals is clear for it is “whom he [God] did predestinate.” That predestination took place sometime in the past is obvious. That predestination or pre-determination has been accomplished by the God “who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will,” is stated. God accomplished this predestination “according to the good pleasure of his will.” It is sad that many professing Christians spend their time either in outright denial of the teaching of predestination or in trying to explain it away.

Predestination is the second step in God's plan of salvation following foreknowledge. Foreknowledge is God's knowing or setting His love upon individuals. Following predestination comes the effectual calling to Christ by which the lost sinner is brought to Christ. Next comes justification: the judicial act of God in declaring the believer righteous. After justification comes glorification. Notice all these are in the past tense in Romans 8:30. The salvation of those predestinated is so sure that God views these persons as already glorified – i.e. they are in His mind and purpose already in possession of their eternal glorified bodies. The Bible says, “Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world,” (Acts 15:18). This is the God with whom we have to do. The teaching of predestination will promote the fear of the Lord and humility in those predestinated. But, alas, almost nobody believes in predestination anymore.

Today is July 16, 2023

## Welcome Sovereign Grace Missionary Baptist Church

*“Where the Truths of God's Word Have Been Taught  
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### **Prayers For Our Church Supported Mission Works**

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania, and the Berea Baptist Banner Mantachie, Ms.

# A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

## “The One Single Message The World Must Hear.”

By Pastor Randy Johnson

John 3:3 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

When Jesus left His final instructions to the church at Jerusalem He told the leadership, “...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15 Therefore, this single encounter with these men shows us the importance of the gospel being preached. Therefore, it must be concluded that of all the countless messages that a minister or Pastor can preach none are more important than the gospel. God said, “...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.” 1 Cor. 1:21b Not that preaching the gospel, or any subject preached from the bible is “foolish” but that the world considers it “foolishness”. God chose to save sinners by the preaching of the gospel, God said “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God...” 1 Cor. 1:21 the world does not know God nor do they believe in God, nor do they believe in Jesus Christ, look at 1Co 1:18a “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness...” That is, to them the crucifixion of Jesus Christ is foolishness along with the death, burial, and resurrection for our salvation is also foolishness to them. The whole gospel message is only a profitable message to them that are saved by it because, “...but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” 1Co 1:18b the reason the gospel message is “powered of God”. To us that are saved it was by the preaching of the gospel, powered by God in our hearts by Holy Spirit. The gospel message alone is totally useless, this is why the world thinks it is foolishness. But when the power of God quickens the lost sinner’s heart and delivers their ability to hear the gospel, then it becomes the single greatest sermon we have ever heard. This is why Paul wrote in Rom. 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” The lost and dying world who are blinded by Satan shames the gospel before the world as non-effective. The “Christian-Religionists” world believes like the Jews, Gnosticism, and others in the bible days that the gospel is powerless and therefore making the preaching of Jesus Christ powerless and worthless.

Their thinking is, it is foolish to believe that Jesus Christ can save you because you must have many works. Even though God has profoundly said that works are not part of salvation. Because works makes both grace and the preaching of

## “The one single message the world must hear. Continued:

the cross ineffective. This is why the “Christian-Religionists” world believes that the message of the gospel must be altered, with Jesus Christ and the power of God being removed to make it a human choice because the true power is in people and the true power is on man’s persuasion of the lost. God described these people in Romans 1:25 “Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.” However, to us who still preach the gospel, even though the religious world thinks it is ineffective is the most important message we can preach from the bible. It is by this single message that God’s Holy Spirit will use to save a lost sinner when He is dealing with that sinner. Everything else is just lies of Satan, so beloved do not be fooled, get the gospel out anyway possible and God will use it as He chooses to save His people.



- Our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Bible Conference is approaching quickly. The Conference is scheduled Friday night and Saturday September 15 & 16. We all 7 speakers confirmed.



## Galatians 1:3-5

*“Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*