

PREDESTINATION, A. McCAFFERTY, OCT 2002

一. History

(一) Very important – second to the Bible.

1. Foolish to believe me. Christianity did not begin yesterday. We must identify who are the great saints in History, and must learn from them. Humility and the fear of God require it.
2. The churches confessions are crucial – not about one man, about an entire church. The most important Reformed confession: Westminster confession. Everything I say today is taken from it.
3. (Topic: Calvin's view of predestination – very similar to Westminster but with some different emphasis.)

(二) Many people and church that teach Predestination.

1. Augustine – early church.
2. Middle ages – Claim "Augustinian" but actually divided (some say Thomas Aquinas others not so.)
3. Reformation: Luther, Calvin, most Reformers.
4. The entire Reformed tradition (Reformed in Holland and France and Germany; Presbyterian in Scotland, Puritans in England, Early American churches.)
5. Reformed Baptists (1706 US) – Spurgeon, Strong, etc.

二. Definition of Predestination.

(一) Simple: Jesus saved me.

1. **Simply 1: take this as it states.** Theology expound this, but this is the bottom line. HE saved me. (Not 2 working together, not I allowed Him to save me, just: he saved me.) So all the glory belongs to him and not me. Gal 1:4
2. **Simple 2: another way to look at this:** I am a Christian, my brother is not. Why? Final difference? God saved me; but he has not yet saved my brother. (Period).
3. You might ask: didn't I choose him, didn't I believe, etc. Answer: Not from myself. All from grace.

(二) **Theology.** In eternity, God choose us, predestined to be saved; In time, God carried out his plan.

1. Theology 1:

- (1) From eternity, God decide that he would create the world. He knew the human race would fall into sin. In eternity, in saw us in our fallen state. He saw us in a very pitiful state. Slaves of Sin. Spiritually blind, heart hardened. Soon to enter to eternal death.
- (2) From eternity, he had mercy on us. He choose us. He entered into a relationship with us. He placed his covenant love on us. (Predestination, Unconditional election)
- (3) At the same time (eternity) He prepared everything. God the Father decreed to send his Son to save us. The Father made a Covenant with the Son. He gave us to him. (Covenant of Redemption)
- (4) Afterwards, at the fullness of time God send forth his Son, born of the law to save us. Jesus died for our sins. He paid the cost of **our** sins on the cross. Jesus loved his own, he loved them to the end. Not – a general intention to make salvation available. Purpose—to save those who God gave him, to save his Church. (Limited Atonement)
- (5) Afterwards, **God called us.** An effective calling. His Spirit entered our hearts, caused us to be born again, opened our eyes, revealed Christ to us. We naturally, miraculously believed and were saved. (Irresistible Grace)
- (6) Now he promises us, to carry on this work of Salvation until we die – or Christ comes. So all true saints continue in grace until death (Perseverance of the Saints.)
- (7) ALL of GRACE. An active, moving, effective grace from eternity to eternity.

2. **Theology 2:** In eternity, from a mass of perishing men, God decided to save some. Now, he is carrying out his plan. (Not all, some. A deep mystery why and why us. Just what the bible teaches.)

三. Biblical Foundation

(一) The theology of Paul (Let me pick one passage from each letter.)

1. Rom 8:28-32, Rom 9:10-24
2. 1 Cor 1:26-31
3. 2 Cor 4:3-6
4. Galatians 1:14-16. See (1:3-6)
5. Eph 1:4-6, Eph 2:1-10
6. Phil 1:3-6, 2:12-13
7. Col 1:10-14
8. 1 Thes 1:4, 5:9-11
9. 2 Thes 2:13-17
10. Titus 3:3-7 – read closely
11. 1 Tim 1:13-17
12. 2 Tim 1:8-10

(二) The theology of Jesus, especially in John's gospel.

1. John 6:35-40, 6:61-65
2. John 12:37-41
3. John 15:16, 17:6
4. Miracles – to unbelieving, Ch. 5, 9, 11

(三) Many other books in both the Old and New Testament teach the same thing.

1. Prophets concerning Israel.
2. Luke-Acts: (Acts 18:9)

(四) Follows from many related teachings of the bible.

1. The hardness of heart, the nature of faith, the born again experience.
 - (1) Bible.
 - (2) Experience.
2. Follows from Salvation by Grace. (See Ephesians, Titus and 1/2 Timothy.)
 - (1) Passages – see above..
 - (2) Grace saves us – not grace brings us part way and we finish the work
 - 甲. By grace – Jesus predestined and sent.
 - 乙. By grace – Gospel came to America.
 - 丙. By grace – Spirit sent into my heart.
 - 丁. By grace – My eyes were open.
 - 戊. By grace – I believed.
 - 己. GRACE SAVED ME.

四. Importance of the Doctrine.

(一) Different view of God (Edwards).

(二) Different view of the Bible and the Christian religion. Core to systematic theology – explain (doctrine of man, Christ's goals in coming, prayer, faith and works, once saved always saved, understanding of FAITH, understanding of preaching and evangelism.)

(三) Gives all the glory to God. (Let God be God, and men be silent.) Gal 1:4-5 (and many places).

(四) True Humility

(五) True Assurance

THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION.

(一) Divide Foreordination and Predestination

1. Need two words – See Westminster confession. Sec 3:3, Sec 3:4 (Some predestined unto life, other foreordained to death.)
2. Foreordination – everything. Scriptures – Eph 1:11. Calvin: Matt 10:30 (all hairs of head are numbered), Foreordination – includes the free choices of men (Sec 3:1 – Nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures.) Free choices – Power of contrary choice. Foreordination involves this. Example: I came today. Did I have the power not to come? Yes. But foreordained. Foreordination – closely related to providence (by providence God brings about what he has foreordained.)
3. Predestination – very limited, concerns who will be saved. Predestination – in eternity, predestines PEOPLE to eternal life. See 3:3. Predestination – number fixed and certain. See 3:4. Predestination – foreordains all the means. See 3:6 – appointed to glory --> foreordained means.
4. Rom 8:28-29. Read. Foreknew and predestined (both "in eternity"). Not fore-called. No we are called in Time. This involves means, involves the free choices of a preacher and the will of a man. But this is all based on and follows from the decree. Foreknown (LOVED, CHOSEN).

(二) Everyone must believe, because the bible clearly teaches "predestination".

1. Six uses of the word " " in NT. Acts 4:28, Romans 8:29-30, 1Cor 2:7, Eph 1:5, 11.
2. Reformed – natural reading.

(三) Double predestination? Yes and No.

1. Lutherans deny.
2. Yes – logic, important. God passed them over.
3. No – Predestined to life and foreordained to death.

(四) Objections

1. Strange -- Calvin: not so. This is the experience of every man. Grace does not come to everyone equally. Some never hear the gospel.
2. Biblical passages – everyone has them. But Arminianism not the theology of any author (very important). Who teaches "we were not chosen", "we contributed to our own salvation", etc.
3. Philosophical objections. In history, the main source anti-Calvinist power is here. Natural man has 1000 philosophical objections. Fear of God: trust in His word and not our own philosophy.