

The Simple Truth Series # 10

Predestination



A study of the Purpose of God in Creation.

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'And expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.' Acts 18:26.

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1.

To choose.

I live on my schooner in a Marina. There are hundreds of seagulls who also live there. Of these, there are four whom I feed. I've been feeding Charlotte for about four and a half years. Each year, she leaves for a couple of months, and returns with a brood of young ones. Footy only has one foot. Lego had her leg broken at some time, and it set being splayed outward, so she only walks with much difficulty. Piglet is an immature black-backed gull, the size of a chicken. He sits beside me, and eats from my hand. When I call these four by name, they come to me.

While I feed my 'friends,' others flock around, begging and hoping for food. Some threaten the others, and seem to say, "I was here first, it's all mine." But it isn't, and they don't get fed, only my friends do. Why do I only feed these particular birds? It's because I *chose* to feed them. What if they do something that makes me smile, will I feed them more? No. What if they make a mess on my deck, will I stop feeding them? No. Because I *chose* to feed them some years ago, they will *always* be fed by me, come what may. It isn't a *reward* for anything, it's a *choice* I personally made. Predestination is much the same.

2.

To predestinate.

To predestinate means, to predetermine an outcome, or to foreordain something to happen. Romans 9:10-13 is a good example of this. ***'And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one; even by our father Isaac; (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of Him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.'***

The Lord loved Jacob, and hated Esau, *before* they were born, and *before* either had done any good or evil. Predestination isn't about being good or evil, because it isn't a reward, it's a choice the Lord Sovereignly made. He chose Jacob. So, at a point in Jacob's lifetime, found in Genesis 26:1-5, He revealed Himself to Jacob, which let him know he was a Son of God, even though he was a deceiver.

In our passage from Romans, it says, ***'that the purpose of God according to election might stand.'*** To elect, means to select, or choose. So, we could also read that verse as saying, ***'that the purpose of God according to His choosing might stand.'*** He selected, or chose, Jacob. In Ephesians 1:4, it reads, ***'According as He hath chosen us in Him, before the foundation of the world.'*** And in Revelation 17:8, we see that our names

were written in the Book of Life, ***'before the foundation of the world.'***

It was the Lord's Sovereign grace to choose Jacob, before creation began, and He predestinated Jacob to be His, from that time forward, for eternity. So, like Jonah, he could be thrown into the sea, and be swallowed by a 'great fish,' but he would *still* be His. He could backslide like Samson, and be blinded by his enemies, to be chained up and made to entertain them, but he would *still* be His. Like King David, he could commit adultery, and have the husband of the woman murdered, to hide the fact that he'd made her pregnant, but he would *still* be His. Like Peter, he could deny he ever knew the Lord, but he would *still* be His. And like Paul, he could murder his Brothers and Sisters in Christ, but he would *still* be His.

Because, as we read, ***'That the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of Him that calleth.'*** It's never of works, it's the Sovereign calling of God. God's calling is never a reward for a pious life of good deeds. He chose these people, *before* they had done either good or evil. He chose them in *spite* of who they were, not *because* of who they were.

3.

The Plan of God.

No man or woman ever chose to be saved. God alone chose us, before the foundation of the world, before time began, before Adam was created, before there was good or evil. The Lord loves us, not because we are lovable, but because He *chose* us. So, what can we do to make the Lord love us more? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. We aren't *seeking* His approval, we got His *complete* approval when He *chose* us before creation began; and we will *always* have His *approval*, because we never chose Him, He chose us. Because He chose us, He predestinated us as His Sons and Daughters.

In Romans 8:28-30, we read, ***'And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. 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. 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.'***

It all begins with being 'the called,' or 'chosen,' according to His purpose, or Will. Because you are chosen and predestinated; at some point in your life, He stepped into it, to introduce Himself to you, and call you. These things, called, justified, glorified, are all in the past tense. It was already a finished work, when He chose us before creation began, because He predestinated it all to happen. The Lord sees all of His Sons and Daughters as called, justified, and glorified, *now*. As we are told in Hebrews 4:3, ***'His works were finished from the foundation of the world.'***

4.

Outside the Plan of God.

So, if the Lord chose us, and we were His before creation began, why do we need to evangelize the world, and tell them about His plan of Salvation?

It's because the Lord created Adam, and He was the Son of God. (Luke 3:38). Then Adam and Eve had children, Abel, Seth, and others, who were also Sons and Daughters of God. This was the Plan of God, the Sons and Daughters whom He had chosen, being manifested in flesh. But, in the Garden of Eden, there was a Serpent, whom Satan inhabited. This Serpent is what the world seeks as the 'missing link,' between humans and animals. And Satan, through the Serpent, 'beguiled,' or seduced Eve. The Bible tells us she 'ate.' (Genesis 3:6). When Solomon described a woman committing adultery, in Proverbs 30:20, he said, ***'Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.'***

Eve became pregnant, and the child from the Serpent was named Cain. So, Cain also had children, and we ended up with two bloodlines on earth; the righteous line, and the unrighteous line. The children of God, through Adam (heavenly), and the children of men, through Cain (earthly).

And in time, ***'the Sons of God*** (Adam's descendants), ***saw the daughters of men*** (Cain's descendants), ***that they were fair; and took them wives of all which they chose.'*** (Genesis 6:2). Then, the children of God, and the children of men, were all mixed up in the gene pool. That's why a Godly man like Noah, could have two Godly sons, Shem and Japheth, and an ungodly son, Ham. And why such a Godly man as Samuel, could sire such evil children. And why King David, ***'a man after God's own heart,'*** could sire such a mixture of Godly and ungodly children. Their genes were mixed together, in his seed.

So, how do we know the Serpent had children? We only have to read the Genesis account of the Fall to find out. In Genesis 3:14 the Lord cursed the Serpent, and instead of walking on two legs, he was cursed to go ***'upon his belly.'*** In verse 15, the Lord said, ***"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel."*** Whenever the Bible mentions 'seed' it is referring to descendants. The Serpent's 'seed' were his descendants through Cain.

The Lord Jesus told the Pharisees, ***"Ye are of your father the Devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."*** (John 8:44). They were very religious, so religious they would tithe the garden herbs. But they wanted religion they could control, religion

without God. So, they had Him crucified.

5.

The Purpose of God.

In John 10:27-28, the Lord said, ***“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”*** We evangelize, and share the Word of God, so *His* sheep can hear *His* Voice in it, as it was when Paul preached his first sermon to the Gentiles at Antioch, and we are told, ***‘As many as were ordained to eternal life believed.’*** (Acts 13:18). Ordained meaning predestined. And as it was after Pentecost when, ***‘The Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved.’*** (Acts 2:47). Should be saved, again meaning they were *going* to be saved, because it was foreordained to happen.

Many people complain, “God isn't fair!” No, He isn't fair. He doesn't have to be fair because He is Sovereign. He can do as He chooses, because there is none greater than Him. He isn't fair, but He's just. He can do as He chooses with what He creates, the same way an author will write a novel, and create all the characters within the novel. The author creates one character as the hero, and another as the villain. It isn't because the hero deserves to be a hero, but the author foreordains him to be the hero.

Jesus Christ is the author of life. ***‘For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him.’*** (Colossians 1:16). He created all the characters, and He created us, as His own, by his choosing. In Romans 9:20, Paul posed the question, ***“Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?”*** He made us thus, because He could. The Sons and Daughters of God are the heroes, and they're the only ones who will ride into the sunset, when this is all over, and live happily ever after. The Author has foretold that, by revealing the end of the story in Revelations chapter 21.

6.

The Patience of God.

For the past 6000 years, the Lord has tolerated the ‘children of men,’ as told in Romans 9:17-24. ***‘For the Scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that My Name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore, hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will He hardeneth. Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth He yet***

find fault? For who hath resisteth His Will? Nay, but O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, Why hast Thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? What if God, willing to shew His wrath, and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had afore prepared unto glory, Even us, whom He hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles.'

7.

The Judgement of God.

The Lord endured '*with much longsuffering,*' the so-called 'Christian' Crusaders, who murdered their way across Europe and the Middle East; the Adolf Hitler's, the Saddam Hussein's, and all the other descendants of the Serpent, who never *were* Sons of God, and never could *become* Sons of God. He endured their arrogance, their boasting, and their rejection of Himself. But He will have the last word, and will say to them, "***Ye are of your father the Devil, and the works of your father ye have done,***" before their destruction.

8.

The Predestinated Love of God.

We have eternal life because we are *predestined* to it. We are seagulls being fed by the hand of God, because He *chose* to feed us, not because we squawk and beg for food. Because He elected us, we are predestined to be fed by Him. It is His Sovereign Will. We don't *deserve* it, and we didn't *earn* it. We aren't His because we love Him. We are His because He loved us, and stamped His Name on us, and will preserve us to spend eternity in His Presence.

We will make mistakes. We will do wrong. Because, as St Paul revealed, '***We have this treasure in earthen vessels.***' (2 Corinthians 4:7). But, because we are His, we can be confident to trust the Word of God, which promises, '***If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, How shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay anything 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.'
(Romans 8:31-39). Amen.

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Ed.D.