

Do you believe in Reincarnation? Foreordained? Do you believe in God's providence? Do you believe in Predestination? Have you ever heard about someone young dying and perhaps thought or said I guess it was just their time to go? Have you ever heard of someone in a terrible car wreck and wonder how they came out alive? According to some, "Apparently it just wasn't their time to go."

If you believe about it just being or not being your time, then next time you drive to an intersection and the light turns red, run it. Or just step out into oncoming traffic. You see, if it's not your time, then you'll be OK.

Have you ever heard or do you perhaps remember the song, "Que Sera, Sera whatever will be will be"? Have you given consideration as to what that means? Whatever will be will be ... No choice!

You see this is the same thing that has been taught in some religions for years. It's called predestination! In other words you have no choice.

The Meaning of Predestination

The Calvinistic doctrine of predestination is a doctrine which deals with the question of the control God exercises over the world. In the words of the Westminster Confession of Faith, God "freely and unchangeably ordained whatsoever comes to pass." The second use of the word "predestination" applies this to salvation, and refers to the belief that God appointed the eternal destiny of some to salvation by grace (or what they call grace), while leaving the remainder to receive eternal damnation for all their sins, even their original

sin. The former is called "unconditional election," and the latter "reprobation." In Calvinism, men must be predestined and effectually called (regenerated/born again) unto faith by God before they will even wish to believe or wish to be justified. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predestination>).

Many will say the scriptures teach predestination and will use Scripture to supposedly prove their point.

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. 30 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 8:28-30)

Predestination is a subject that is misunderstood by so many because they do not study the scriptures to understand what is actually taught.

If we truly believe we are predestined then it would not matter how we live. If God has predestined us for Heaven then there would be nothing we could do to be lost. If on the other hand if God has predestined us for Hell, there would be nothing we could do to gain Heaven.

Does the Bible Teach Predestination or Choice?

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is

longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

So now what do we do? Are we truly without a choice in our service or non-service to God? In light of these two passages, how can we say that God has predestined some to heaven and others to hell? His desire for ALL mankind is clearly stated. We are given a choice. Just as Joshua understood he had a choice in serving or not serving God.

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. (Joshua 24:15)

God Does Allow Choice

God gives us choice in our lives. Without choice we could not choose God. Another question to consider in light of the clear teaching of God's Word is, "If we are not given a choice then why would we have so many scriptures warning us about the possibility of falling away?"

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. (1 Corinthians 9:27)

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. (Hebrews 6:4-6)

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:6-9)

When Jesus Died on the Cross, He Died for All Men Not Just a Few

On the day of Pentecost Peter spoke to the crowd and told them what they had done. Many of those present understood. In understanding, they also knew they had to do something. And so the question: "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). But if it is true, as Calvinists teach, that we are already elected to either be saved or lost, there is nothing we can or must do!

If all you needed to do was believe then that's what Peter would have told them. They believed, but they needed to do more and were told by inspired men that they must "repent and be baptized." We today are given a choice.

God did not make us mind numb robots. He clearly created us with the ability to choose.

If you believe in predestination then what do you do with John 3:16? What sort of cruel God would tell mankind that Jesus died for them, and then withhold any ability to obtain that salvation!?

If God has predestined you be saved or lost then that makes him a liar, for the Scriptures clearly teach otherwise!

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. (Acts 10:34-35)

We have a choice to make. To do good or to do evil. To follow Him or follow Satan.

What choice have you made?

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the
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To hear or view the complete lesson go to
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**"They Shall Be Turned
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by
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