

## **MORE ABOUT PREDESTINATION, ELECTION AND THE ELECT**

David C F Wright DD

These expressions are used in the Bible and so they must not be ignored.

Some assert that predestination means that from past eternity God chose who was going to be saved and, therefore, who was going to be lost. It is an accomplished fact, unchangeable and irreversible. It is way beyond man himself and this predestination would make God cruel and a tyrant if He chooses who He is going to condemn.

Take the case of Joan Bland and millions like her. She was born in 1919 and died in 1972. She was not a Christian. Far from it. She used her freewill to live her life without Christ. So according to some Calvinistic teachings, she was chosen by God before the foundation of the world to be unsaved, lost, not to be one of the elect and to be cast into eternal damnation. There are millions of Joan Blands.

I read nowhere in the Scriptures that God predestined anyone unto salvation nor that He predestined any others to eternal torment, although Calvin believed this.

People are not chosen or predestined by God to be saved or damned. If He has chosen before time began who were to suffer eternal torment with weeping and gnashing of teeth, that would make God cruel and a tyrant.

While I am not a universalist (I do not believe that everyone will be saved), I believe that God is love, not willing that any should perish or be lost, but that all may come unto repentance and a knowledge of all the truth and be saved. He came to seek and save those that are lost. If He knew who were to be saved and who were to be lost according to the predestination of God, why would He seek converts?

Acts 2.23, Romans 8. 29ff, 1 Peter 1 verses 1 and 2 refers to the foreknowledge of God the Father. In other words, God knows the future. Nothing takes Him by surprise. He knew beforehand who would accept salvation and who would reject it. And He calls those who respond to Him for salvation the chosen (those who have made a choice) or the elect, which now in the New Testament terminology, is called the Body of Christ.

Some call the elect the chosen which can be misleading if the Scriptures are not carefully considered.

The saved are the elect. People chose to elect to love God because God first loved us.

Man had no free will to influence God to love him or to save him; nor any influence or input to cause the Lord Jesus Christ to die on the Cross for our sins. Man's free will had absolutely nothing to do with God's plan of salvation.

We were chosen, or predestined, before the worlds began but not unto salvation but to be holy, blameless and in love (Ephesians 1. 4). This is confirmed in Romans 8 29ff. Those whom He foreknew, He predestined, not to salvation, but to be conformed to the image of His Son.

1 Peter 1 verses 1 and 2 says that we are not chosen for salvation by predestination, but by the foreknowledge of God. God knows the end from the beginning. He knows who will refuse Him but His Mission remains to seek and to save those who are lost.

Predestination is not unto salvation or eternal damnation but unto Christlikeness.

What is the point of prayer meetings for the unsaved or evangelical crusades if God has already predestined who is to be saved and who is going to be lost? Calvinists state that such events are the means God used in his predestination to salvation policy.

It is strange how people twist what the Bible says to approve their thinking.

Take the wedding feast in Matthew 22 and the guest without a wedding garment. Verse 14 says Many are called but few are chosen. The word for chosen is eklego meaning to chose for one's self, to exercise one's freewill.

The Bible scholar H L Ellison writes:

“There are no grounds for thinking that Gentiles are included in this parable which refers to a Jewish wedding and its procedures based on rabbinical teaching. The man without a proper wedding garment may have had no time to go home and change. At a Jewish wedding, it was often customary for the host to give or loan a wedding garment to those invited to the wedding. This man was invited but not prepared and did not respect the wedding garment requirement. He chose to ignore what was required”.

Luke 18.7 says that God will bring justice to those He has chosen. The word chosen here is really accepted. Chosen not to salvation, but by the foreknowledge of God to be Christlike. We are predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.

Verses in John 13 and 15 concerning the word chosen refers to the disciples He had chosen to be disciples. It does not refer to predestination as one of the disciples, Judas, was a traitor and allowed Satan to take him over.

The Bible teaches that whosoever calls upon the Lord shall be saved. Whosoever means anyone and everyone. We also read that the Lord said, “Whosoever cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out” (John 6.37) and this refers to those that will believe in Him (35).

---

© COPYRIGHT David C F Wright DD 1999. No part of this article, however small, may be reproduced or stored in any system whatsoever. It must not be copied, altered or downloaded. Failure to comply is illegal being theft and contrary to International Copyright law and will render any offender liable to action at law.