

The Work of God in Predestination – Man Put in the Dust Before God!

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God of the Bible

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Bible Text: John 6:37-45; John 1:12-13

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We hope you enjoyed that number.

Here is a question. Are you saved and do you know it? Has your sin been washed away? And, my friend, are you absolutely positive of it? If not, throw away that old profession and seek the Lord and his mercy.

This is the Mercies of God coming to you from Grand Rapids. Let's bow for a word of prayer.

Our Father and our God, how thankful we are that when you save us, you give us the absolute assurance of our salvation. And, Lord, nothing can separate us from the love of God and nothing can separate us from thy divine presence because, Holy Spirit, thou dost dwell within us all the time and we just praise you for it.

Thank you, Lord, for being such a gracious, marvelous, wonderful, longsuffering, patient, understanding God. And thank you, again, for saving this old sinner speaking at this hour.

We praise you, too, oh Lord, that you are in the business today of saving sinners, one here and one there. And we ask. Take the broadcast and use it as a medium of communication of thine to some heart that they might come to know thee whom to know aright is life eternal. But above everything else we ask thee, Lord, give glory to thy name in this broadcast and use it as it please thee we pray now, Lord Jesus, for thy sake.

[singing]

Take your Bibles now and turn with me if you will to John chapter six. I am going to begin reading at verse 37 down through verse 45.

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose

nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.¹

Our subject today as we bring you a series of messages on the Bible, our subject today is the work of God in predestination.

Now we want you to listen carefully because the vast majority of people today who are religious of any matter do not understand predestination. We find that there are two categories that this falls into. On the one side there are some who are ultra predestinationists and that means that they are ultra Calvinist and therefore they do not know what they are talking about. And then on the other side you have the free will group which are the Arminians and they don't know what they are talking about either. And then right in between you have those that follow the correct teaching of the Word of God.

Our subject today is the work of God in predestination. The subject of predestination, if it is ever mentioned or preached, causes a stir in the hearts of man as no other subject does. This comes about because of two reasons. The first reason is the ignorance and the heresy surrounding this great subject. Predestination is not known, it is not preached and it is not understood by the vast majority of our religious people.

The so called Christian world is in the mire of heresy because it is taught that God has cast a vote for man's soul, the devil has cast a vote and then man casts the deciding vote. Along with this heresy is the popular but erroneous teaching that God cannot save man unless man allows him. So when predestination is preached, it causes a stir for the great subject of predestination goes against the grain of popular preaching of today.

The second reason predestination causes a stir is that this subject degrades man and exalts God. Our popular preaching dwells on the ability of man to accept or reject Christ, thus exalting man and glorifying man's ability. This is well pleasing to the flesh and puffs man's ego until it is highly inflated.

However, when predestination is preached, it deflates man and puts him in the dust before God as a ruined, helpless, hell deserving sinner who stands at the disposal of God

¹ John 6:37-45.

without faith and without hope. This is contrary to the natural heart because it cuts across the grain of proud flesh and, as a result, it also causes a stir within.

The hardest thing man has to face is the reality that he is nothing, he knows nothing, can do nothing and merits nothing but hell and that he, man, cannot lift one finger with regard to his salvation.

Even some of you now are probably being stirred up at these statements, because the vast majority of you who listen to me believe that you were the principle agent with regard to your salvation. Yet the Scripture is plain where it declares in Romans chapter nine verse 15 and 16 these words.

For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.²

Again, in John chapter one and verse 12 and 13 we read this.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.³

Now let me ask you a question at this hour. Have you been born of God? Oh, my friend, I hope and pray that you have because the greatest thing that can ever take place, if it ever does, is for the Lord God of heaven to reach down and save you.

Because of the heresy regarding God's predestination, we shall endeavor to set forth the truth of Scripture with regard to this great subject. Take your Bibles now and turn to our text in John chapter six and verses 37 through 39 where we read:

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.⁴

Now let's look at this portion carefully because in it we see the work of the Father in predestination. Notice, if you will, four things stand out very clearly in this portion of the Word of God. First, God the Father gave certain ones to Christ. Second, these shall come to Christ and be saved. Third, Christ came to do the Father's will. And then, fourth, none of the ones given to Christ shall be eternally lost.

² Romans 9:15-16.

³ John 1:12-13.

⁴ John 6:37-39.

Now this is predestination clearly and simply. And to deny it means to deny the truth of God.

Now let's look at our first statement again for just a few moments.

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me.”⁵

Here we see the work of God the Father revealed. God the Father chose absolutely and unconditionally a certain number of souls to be saved and gave them to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now listen carefully. This number is known only to the triune God and this number is complete, absolute and eternal. It cannot be diminished or added to in any degree. This number was chosen before the foundation of the world and this number is predestined in love by God to come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Before you cry out, “Heresy,” turn with me, if you will, to Ephesians chapter one verses three through five where we read:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.⁶

Here is a statement of God the Father choosing his elect and predestinating them to be his children according to the good pleasure of his will and not theirs. To deny or refute this means to go against the plain teaching of the Word of God.

Now don't jump up and down and cry out, “Whosoever,” because I believe in whosoever just as well as any one of you do. Whosoever will may come. We know that. But the only ones that are going to come are the ones that are drawn by God the Father unto a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, beloved, you think on that before you go any further.

The second aspect of the work of God is the giving of the chosen ones or the elect into the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now what does this mean? This means that Christ agreed to become sin for the elect who were given to him. It also means that Christ came down from heaven according to the will of God the Father.

⁵ John 6:37.

⁶ Ephesians 1:3-5.

We see also that these elect ones shall come to Christ because not a single one of the elect of God can be lost.

Now I am going to give you a Scripture verse on that. It is right there in our text. Listen to it.

“And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.”⁷

Now, you see, here we see this set forward. We see that these elect ones shall come to Christ because not a single one of the elect of God can ever be eternally lost.

Now hold your seat. They are lost until God finds them. And we need to understand that. There are people today who believe that the elect of God have never been lost and therefore they never need the work of regeneration in their hearts. And, beloved, that is heresy. The Word of God teaches very clearly that the elect of God are lost sheep and our Lord has to go out and find them and bring them unto himself.

And this is the reason for radio broadcasting that we preach to you on the radio. This is the reason for missionaries. This is the reason for television. This is the reason for all activities to go out and do what, to contact the people because we don’t know what the elect of God are, but we rest assured on this reality that, beloved, hallelujah, they are going to come.

Now you listen carefully because some of your pet theological theories are being exploded. And I want to tell you this. Now listen carefully, that the elect are going to be saved and that all who go to hell are the non elect and for these the Lord Jesus Christ did not die. Christ did not die for those in hell because if one soul for whom Christ died is ever to perish, then the death of Christ is insufficient for any person.

The Word of God tells us clearly that not one of the elect should perish and this is absolutely true.

The third thing we would notice is that Christ was the incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension.

Now, preacher, what in the world are you talking about?

Isaiah chapter 53 tells us, “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.”⁸

⁷ John 6:39.

⁸ Isaiah 53:10.

Now hold your seat again and pay close attention. All of this was predestinated by the Lord and therefore to go against this great truth means to relegate the work of Christ to nothing. And, my friend, this is done by a lot who profess to name the name of Christ.

What about you, my radio friend? Are you squeamish and skittish when predestination is mentioned or preached? If so, you need to go back and examine the Word of God all over again because you are missing some of the great fundamental truths of this blessed book.

There is one more aspect about the work of God in predestination that merits our close attention and listen to it carefully if you will. We find that Christ was incarnate. Christ became incarnate. Christ was crucified. Christ was buried. Christ rose again and Christ has ascended up on high. And, beloved, all this was predestinated by the Lord God of heaven and don't you ever forget it. God knows what he is doing. And, beloved, it all worked out according to his plan.

Now as I mentioned before, there is one more aspect about the work of God in predestination which merits our close attention. Turn to John chapter six verse 44 where we read:

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”⁹

Here is set forth the absolute reality of God drawing the sinner unto Christ. This truth is not preached, but it is still so. Some of you out there in radio land exalt the ability of man to trust Christ immediately, but such is not the case. Unless God draws the sinner and enables that person to trust Christ, that individual will never be saved. This puts man at God's disposal where he belongs and it places God on the throne where he belongs. This does away with men exercising his faith because the faith of man is not acceptable before the Lord God of heaven. Man must have of Christ granted to him if man is ever to be saved.

Now, my radio friend, what about you at this hour? Has the Lord God of heaven ever drawn you unto Christ? Has there ever been such a longing in your heart to know the Lord that you just couldn't go another hour without him?

You see, this is what takes place when God begins to deal with a sinner. The first thing the Lord does, he opens that sinner's heart and then he begins to put a longing within that sinner's soul to find something that will satisfy him.

You see, man without Christ is an unsatisfied being. For man to be satisfied he has got to have communion with the Lord God of heaven. And our Lord when he sets out to draw a sinner unto himself, this is what he does. He begins to put a longing in that sinner's heart. Now this may take long or it may take short. It may be real extensive or it might be just like a gentle breeze. But remember. The Spirit of God knows exactly what he is doing.

⁹ John 6:44.

And when he does that, he begins to put this longing in that sinner's heart and then the first thing you know, that individual begins to get interested in the things of the Lord.

And then, as the Holy Spirit continues to work in that sinner's heart, I will tell you what else he does. He begins not only to put a longing in that sinner's heart, but he begins to open that sinner's heart and show that sinner who he is and what he is and the judgment that he is under. And, my friend, when this takes place the Spirit of God brings that individual under conviction and that sinner is made to realize who he is and what he is and the judgment he is under and then he realizes his own personal responsibility. And I will tell you right now. He begins to cry unto the Lord God of heaven.

You see, this is what God does.

“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him.”¹⁰

And this tragedy of today is this, that our churches don't know what this means. They just don't wait on it. When an invitation is given and an individual doesn't come down the aisle, they will try every trick of the trade to drive that person down to what they call the altar to a saving knowledge of Christ. And it doesn't work that way.

You see, God has to do it. And I want to say to you very kindly in these closing moments. If you don't know the Lord Jesus Christ I want to tell you right now, God has caused you to pick up this station and listen to this voice for a few moments because of the predestination work of God does not absolve you one bit of your responsibility. Your personal responsibility is to seek to find out if you are one of the elect of God. Anything less will lead to hell. And when you go there, which you will unless you know Christ, it will be your personal responsibility and no one else. You will have no one to blame but yourself. And the only way for you to find out if you are the elect of God is to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as your absolute, personal, all sufficient Lord and Savior.

In this closing moment I want to ask you a question. Do you know Christ? Has God ever drawn you unto a saving knowledge of himself? Has he ever opened your heart and shown you your need of him? And then has he put that desire in your soul to know him and you couldn't stop crying until you feel that cry was answered?

And, my friend, when that cry was answered, it was the greatest thing that could ever take place in your life, wasn't it?

Oh, some of you know what I am talking about. But the vast majority of you out there, you don't know what I am talking about. And even now as we go off the air we ask you to do this. You begin to seek the Lord. Ask him to open your heart and show you your need of him. And when he does, and he will, your cry will become, “Lord, show me thyself and save me, a lost perishing sinner.”

¹⁰ Ibid.

My hope is that this work might be wrought in your life even at this hour because it is the greatest thing that can ever take place when it does. And my hope is that something has been said that will stir you to seek the Lord.

Until we meet again, this is pastor Peter Nortier saying, “Goodbye and may the Lord spare you before it is too late.”

[singing]