

Lesson Seven

Applying Our Election to Life

Predestination, pp. 95-112

Goal

To make practical application of the doctrine of predestination to our daily lives.

Introduction

The doctrine of predestination does not involve idle words or words for theologians to use in their theoretical disputes. Rather, this doctrine has to do with one's life, for it consistently draws a person to Christ's cross and God's grace.

In this lesson we will look at how the doctrine of predestination is a great blessing to our lives.

Our comfort in times of trial

John 10:27-30 "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

- How does our election guarantee that our God is always watching over us and protecting us?

Romans 8:31,32 *If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

- Discuss: Do we question if we are among the elect when troubles descend on our homes and families or when we find ourselves in the fires of affliction? Of what do Paul's words to God's elect assure us?

Predestination leads to a life of service to God

Galatians 2:20 The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- How does Saint Paul, as one of God's elect, want to live his life?

Predestination opposes modern-day synergism

John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.”

- Synergism is the false teaching that man works along with or cooperates with God in his conversion and salvation. Give some examples of modern-day synergism.
- How does the doctrine of election combat any kind of synergism—whether overt or camouflaged?

Predestination's bearing on mission work

Matthew 28:19,20 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

- How could a faulty understanding of the doctrine of election affect the way people go about doing mission work?

Isaiah 55:10,11 As the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

1 Corinthians 3:7 Neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

- As we spread the Word of God to others, what should we consider to be our responsibility? What part of the task must we leave to God?

1 Peter 2:9 You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

- Christians are special people who do special work. How is this a fitting expression for Christians who are called to declare God's praises in this darkened world?

Summary

The doctrine of predestination is not a theory but rather a comforting teaching from God's holy Word meant to be practical for the lives of Christians. It constantly and consistently draws the individual to Christ's cross and gives him or her eternal hope. It guards against false teachings that would rob us of God's grace. This doctrine also motivates us to do mission work, for we are convinced that God continues to gather in his chosen ones by using fellow Christians to proclaim his saving Word.