

PREDESTINATION APPLIED TO DAILY LIVING

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GRACE GOSPEL MINISTRY

The greatest benefit that can be gained from understanding and accepting the Doctrine of Foreordination (predestination) is the security and peace that it imparts to ones spirit. It also brings rest to one's mind to realize that God has graciously provided for those whom He dearly loves. In this respect, all salvation transactions are completed actions in eternity, in effect guaranteeing their manifestation, which is the essence of enactment in time. This guarantee is invested in the confidence that **God has absolute control of all things**, which is gleaned from the information that **HE IS THE ACTUAL CAUSE OF ALL THINGS**. The fact that "**NOTHING CAN ALTER, INTERRUPT OR DELAY IN ANY MANNER ANYTHING GOD HAS DECREED IN ETERNITY,**" should be considered an essential statement to the elect of God in this dispensation, the Grace Church age. Full knowledge of God's plan, purpose and will, should dramatically impact our thinking and influence our actions as we move about in our daily activities.

Security of one's commitment rests in placing into true perspective the **essence of time** where God has creatively scheduled the **manifestation of His will**. First and foremost, we have eternal life based on **what has occurred in eternity rather than in time** (Titus 1:2). We cannot have an adequate appreciation of the world-order until we are able to view it as **God's designed system** through which He is working out His plans. God's determination of the most tremendous foreordination (predestination) conceivable in Heaven or on earth or even in all of existence is exemplified in the manifestation of His dominating election in creation. Distortion or dilution of this all embracing predestination reduces this masterful work of God to the premise that we ourselves are not subject to it in our personality. In this view, our entire existence, our very nature, even our position in life is not entirely dependent on Him. The inference of this mindset in effect places most determinations in the depraved hands of men and even worse in the hands of so-called blind natural forces as the evolutionists assert.

The only plausible proof to stabilized creation entails foreordination in **creation, as well as in providence and thus on into the dominions of grace and even nature itself**. Those who are blessed to have been caused to believe in God must realize that He, who is infinite in power and wisdom, couldn't possibly create a world without a definite all encompassing plan and the reason for it that would extend to every detail of its existence. An un-obstructive view of creation displays all its relations, past, present and future, as following a **predetermined course with exact precision and organization everywhere**. All acts are designed along the lines of **previously formed purposes**, which are the fulfillment of **preconceived plans** dictating the limits of their finite capacities. The world void of God's decree exhibits Him as an irrational creator; exuding appalling evidence of one who does not possess or control nature nor the knowledge to properly apportion or regulate its influential forces.

This absolutely does not fit the description of God's attributes. As the Scriptures clearly teach that God's providential control extends to all events, (even the most minute), they also specifically teach that His plan is equally comprehensive. **It is intrinsic in His perfection that He has the best possible plan and has thus designed the course of all events to accommodate His appointed end.** In order for one to endorse God's absolute omniscience and omnipotence, it is necessary to endorse His sovereignty and **foreordination of all His workings.** God's plan is shown in its effectuation to be one. In this sense, **cause is linked with effect; hence what is effect evolves from cause.** This translates into the influence of events on events interlaced with each other, thus descending in developing streams to subsequent events so that the entire composite result is derived through the design of every part. In this scenario, any component that could be removed or altered from the system would necessarily modify more or less the prescribed functioning of all the rest. In essence **failure of any one event to transpire exactly as HE prearranged it; would derange entire proceedings either directly or indirectly, as it would constitute a lack of control.**

As we view enlightenment of this information, a probing question arises, i.e., **does God make daily decisions thus accounting for His adjustments to life's functions?** The scriptural answer is an emphatic **NO, BECAUSE IT ISN'T NECESSARY FOR HIM TO DO SO!** If God had not foreordained the entire course of events but waited until some undetermined condition **was or was not** fulfilled, His decree could be neither eternal nor immutable. However, the word of God informs us that He is incapable of mistake and cannot be surprised by unforeseen inconveniences. **God is Sovereign,** which denotes that He rules over everyone and everything, thus **His plan must of necessity include every function and event in the entire scope of existence.** His omniscience dictates that even the small, inconsequential events have their place in His plan and the fact that they are; is easily seen. Some can reflect on instances that they classified as "**chance happenings**" that in effect actually changed the course of their lives.

As we review such happenings, is it correct to state that these events fall into the category of **fortuitous occurrences?** If such were relegated to confines of assumed impersonal purposeless determinants of unaccountable happenings, then these effects would broaden throughout all succeeding events in ever- widening influences, causing "chance happenings." In this respect, **there could be no definite plan intermingled with such chaotic disorder of disruptions or interruptions.** Now some will point to the accounts of mainly Old Testament scriptures that are written exclusively from the viewpoint of time according to the structure of the terms and conditions of the covenant of that specific dispensation; in stating that such are the operations of God. When things are viewed from eternity, it becomes apparent that all events of creation in their details, even the minutest are but **unfolding of the eternal purpose of God.** His decree is not successively formed as "emergencies" arise, but is all of one all-comprehending plan. We should never think of Him suddenly evolving a plan or doing something that was not pre-planned. The fact that the scriptures sometime speak of the purpose of God as dependent on outcome of another or even on the actions of men offers **no objections to the doctrine of Foreordination.**

Many scriptures are written through the eyes and language of men thus describing an act or a thing as it appears to be rather than as it really is. Vivid examples of this are illustrated in the phrases "rising and setting of the sun" and "the sun stood still;" yet our knowledge of the solar system confirms that it is not the motion of the sun but the earth turning over on its axis that causes this phenomena. Likewise, when scriptures speaks of God repenting (KJV) or "sighing," the enlightened conveyance is not that God has suddenly realized that he has pursued an unfruitful course and then changed His mind. In retrospect, the factuality that is depicted is that of God's action being expressed in view of **the terms and conditions of the specific covenant as** they are worked out in the **intent of the covenant**. The fact that God is eternal dictates that all concerning Him is eternal including all in His decree of everything that **must** transpire. **Some deny that God has a plan, while others assert that He has a general but not a specific plan, which embraces all events in all the ages.**

We can rest in the comfort that all of His acts are purposeful and that He is all wise in His planning and all-powerful in His performing. With this committed understanding, we view the universe as **the product of His creative power, designed to display His glorious perfections**. This can be exhibited only in the expressions of all His workings, even down to the least detail corresponding with His **eternal purpose in creation**. **The contemplation of this great eternal plan forms a crescendo to the praise of the unsearchable wisdom and illimitable power of Him who has devised and executed it**. Nothing can give the Children of God more comfort and joy than to know that **the entire course of all creation is ordered with the view of the establishment God's eternal rein and the manifestation of His Divine glory; as He has chosen His elect to be recipients of His infinite love and mercy, which is to be lavished on His Beloved**. One's desire to learn more or know about God is documented evidence that God has chosen such according to His purpose. In actuality, the desire to know and the love for God is proof of one's **calling and election** and that the true spirit of God lives in one's heart. It is through this process that God's people come to know the **eternal goodness of God toward His elect**.

As this is understood, it automatically leads communication of God's spirit to recipient's deeper and richer life. Thorough understanding of foreknowledge and foreordination is what convinces that whatever is occurring, it is indeed designed as good coming down from the Father of light; thus there is no need to change or shift because God is steady and unmoved in His affection for those whom He has reconciled. As we come to know God through His word, it impacts and influences our personal experiences to the end that regardless of our physical circumstances, we always view Him as beautiful, loving, merciful, personal and positive. This is all communicated in the realm of what is defined as "the spirit that belongs to truth." The Spirit of Truth is in essence that function of the Godhead that conveys His intentions of plan, purpose and will to the spirits of men who He has made alive; thus the gift of faith. This gift of faith is the great source from which the elect of God learn via the Holy Spirit, who is the greatest of teachers. The process for the conveyance of truth works in the souls of men in accordance with their assigned love for truth and capacity to grasp spiritual realities.

God's Will is in His eternal intentions in earthly circumstances and should be considered in respect to particular persons as the purpose of God. With respect to each and every human, there is an occasion in time fixed for every purpose; a time to be born and a time to die c.f. **Hebrews 9:27; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**. Everything that befalls humans between their birth and death are expressed in time, in divine determination of what becomes revealed. Thus, God predetermined in eternity what we are and when we are born, who our parents are, who our relatives are, what gender we are, what race we are and what nation we are appointed citizens of. In and of time and the circumstances of our lives, these determinations are things that "happen" to us, whether they are viewed in an unfavorable or successful manner. God has in His Will what was appointed for us. Paul revealed this in disclosing, "...and when God was well pleased, having separated me from the womb of my mother and having called through His grace" **Galatians 1:15**.

Some things are revealed to certain ones and others are not. In support of this, Job said of himself as he observed, "...many such things are with Him" (**Job 23:14**) in His secret Will. We know not what shall befall us and though we know that we shall die that is revealed but when and where, in what manner and circumstance, we know not ... that remains until revealed in the hidden WILL of God. Some things, which had been hidden became revealed by prophecy. For example, it was made known to Abraham beforehand that his seed, according to the WILL or purpose of God, should be in a land that were not theirs for four hundred years and be afflicted and come out with great substance **Genesis 15:13-14**. Nor did God hide from Abraham what he secretly willed to display in destroying Sodom and Gomorrah. However, God never revealed Christ's embodiment, eminence, obedience, sufferings, death and the glory that should follow; but they were all signified beforehand to the prophets by the Holy Spirit.

God's revealed processes in acts done by men, is called "His Will" **Romans 2:18**. This was revealed to Adam; inscribing it on his spirit, whereby he knew his duty to God, as to what should be performed by him. Even as such was sadly complicated by sin, yet to this day, there are some remnants of it in those having been caused "by nature" to do the things contained in it, which show the principles in their hearts. A more progressive version of this, in the form of the Mosaic Law, was delivered to the Israelites, written on tables of stone by God; according to what they were commanded to adhere to enjoy the privileges of. In the generation of the Kingdom, the Law of God is placed into the inward parts and hearts of His earthly covenant people, Israel. Much more progressively, God's people in the present church age are being transformed by the renewing of their minds. Thus, they are awakened to "know what is the good, perfect and acceptable Will of God" **Romans 12:2**. Contrary to what the skeptics claim, this is in respect of mankind's duty both to God and humans.

This is in the gospel, which regulates His kind intentions and gracious considerations to mankind and reveals what beforehand was His hidden Will concerning them. God, in His Sovereign Will has: chosen some to everlasting life and happiness; has appointed these to salvation by Christ and appointed Him their Savior in eternity **Romans 3:24-26; Revelation 13:8**. In testimonial revelations in time, Christ undertook to do the Will of God and descended from Heaven to earth to do it, finished it; that it is the Will of God that these to be, having been regenerated and sanctified and "they shall never perish

but had and have everlasting life” **Ephesians 1:4-5; I Thessalonians 4:3**; c.f. **John 3:16; 6:38-40; Matthew 18:14**. Although this is the revealed Will of God in Paul’s “Mystery Message, as to particular persons therein, it is, in a great measure, a reserved secret; the election of God, having been made known **Ephesians 1:9; 3:3,5**. Yet such are not attained to except by those who were favored with a full assurance of faith. However, as to others, though it may be, having been in conclusion of charity because of their declared experiences, savory discourses and separate manner of life concluded by them; they were predestined as children of God. Yet, such can’t be certainly known except by divine revelation, as it was disclosed by the Apostle Paul that Clement and other fellow laborers of his had their names written in the book of life **Philippians 4:3**.

It is the revealed will of God that we are “son positioned” in the Heavenlies **Ephesians 1:3-4**; as all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ **Romans 14:10, II Corinthians 5:10**. In the Kingdom Gospel, there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust; that after death there will be a judgment and though a day is fixed, as well as Him appointed to judge the world in righteousness; yet “of that day and hour knows no man”, no, not the angels, but God only **Matthew 24:36**. Thus, upon the entirety; though there is some foundation for this difference between the hidden and the revealed Will of God, yet it is quite clear that there is a mixture. Parts of God’s Will are as yet, secret and part of it revealed with respect to various matters documented in His Word. The most accurate feature of the Will of God is into that of precept and purpose of its commanding and declaring. God’s Will of precept or His commanding Will is that which is often spoken of in Scripture, as what should be done by men and that which He declared that they might had, having knowledge of and having been, being completed in **Colossians 1:9, 4:12; Matthew 7:21; 12:50**.

This is in the regulation of mankind’s function which consists of the fear (reverence) of God and trust of His commands and declarations. Human inabilities forbid compliance to this and none can perfectly obey because even the slightest variation is a lapse of it. When it is done right, it is only enabled in faith from and to the glory of God. Otherwise, it could not be perfectly done in the best manner. No, not even as it is not perfectly done by angels in Heaven. God confirms what He approves of and what is acceptable to Him; which must be enabled by Him. Reality that nothing is achievable without Him doesn’t render humans inexcusable because they do otherwise. Properly communicated as His Will, is none other than His Word (Saying) **Hebrews 11:3**. This is the total regulation of His actions; that He completed all things in Heaven and earth according to the counsel of His Will **Ephesians 1:11**. His Will is always done and cannot be resisted, frustrated or canceled.

God’s Sovereignty demonstrates that He does what He has determined, in that, “His counsel stands and the thoughts of His heart are to all generations” c.f. **Psalms 33:11**. This is fulfilled sometimes by those who have no regard for His Will, nor precept and knowledge of Him, even while they are doing it, e.g., Herod, Pontius Pilate, Jews and Gentiles, in their behests against Christ, **Acts 4:27, 28**. Also, note the ten kings whose hearts God caused to fulfill His Will, in giving their kingdoms to the beast, **Revelation 17:17**. God’s Will is the decisive object ultimately developed in everything we intend to do in saying, “if (as) the Lord Will, we will do this, that and the other” **I Corinthians**

4:19; James 4:13-15. This must be owned up to, acknowledged and submitted to in every state and condition of our lives. This is factual, whether in prosperity, adversity or whatsoever comes to pass in our doings or in friends and relations **Acts 21:14**; as such is in properly viewing, exclusively the Will of God.

The next inquiry is: what are the objectives of God? First, God is Himself His BEING, perfection and means, as the origin of all that exists through the breathing of His Spirit. His attributes (characteristics) acceptably and necessarily exist and depend exclusively upon the ultimate end of His own glory. **Colossians 1:16-17** state, "... because all things were created in Him, in the Heavens and upon the Earth, visible and invisible... whether thrones, whether lordships, whether principalities, whether authorities; all things through Him and for Him, have been created." In support, **Proverbs 16:4** state, "The Lord hath made all things for Himself and also the wicked for a day of evil." This verse communicates that all are for His glory. He wills in His glory in all He does as "all things are of Him;" as the efficient CAUSE and, "through Him," as the wise disposer of them. So they are "to Him," that is, to His glory, as the ultimate CAUSE and last end of all. He wills necessarily, as He can't but will His own glory and "He won't give His glory to another" **Isaiah 42:8**. He can't will it to another because that would be to deny Himself **II Timothy 2:13**.

Secondly, all things are "in" Him and none are "without" Him, whether good or evil, as objects of His Will or what His Will is in each and every concern. There is no difference between God's knowledge, power and Will. He knows all things knowable in His understanding and power as the cause of all that is possible, though not revealed. He willed everything willable in His WORD (saying) that is or not. As observed, God is omniscient (all knowing) and omnipotent (all powerful); nevertheless, God's Will brings into being and directs ALL. Limited restrictive revelations of Genesis ineffectively view things in nature; correctly made by God, but as all originally good and even "very good," yet all made according to His Will. This constrained view is void of God's eternal purpose and source of the deficient notion that the appearance of Adam's sinful nature transformed God's ideal creation into disorder. This is incomplete when compared with the more informative view in **Revelation 4:11**'s documentation: "You have created all things and for your pleasure" or by your Will they are and were created, even the Heavens, earth and sea and all that are in them."

Nothing in God's kingdom should ever be interpreted as determined by outside influences. God's Will rules over all; which extends to all creatures; including angels, humans and every event that takes place. Not even a sparrow can fall to the ground other than such is the Will of God. In witness, **Daniel 4:35** states, "He does according to His will in the army of Heaven, heavenly host of angels and among the inhabitants of the earth." **Lamentation 3:37** states, "...who is he that says and it cometh to pass when the Lord commanded it not?" There is nothing that comes to pass except what God has willed, ordered and appointed, according to His purpose. All things are according to God's Will; including: all spiritual blessings in Christ, all grace given to those placed in Christ before the world began, God's choice of those predestinated to son position in and by Him, redemption through His blood, regeneration, sanctification and their eternal

inheritance. These are all according to the good pleasure of His Will **Ephesians 1:3-5, 7, 9, 11; I Thessalonians 4:3; II Timothy 1:9; James 1:18.**

Anything that seemingly “perhaps take place” in Eden other than God’s Will, propels an indictment against both His knowledge and power. Thus, it is absurd to say that “something went awry” from what God had designed to function otherwise. What must be understood is that every occurrence in testimonial process in time was dominantly determined by its ultimate end in God’s purpose in eternity. Even all the evil things are comprised in objectives of God’s Will. Afflictions assigned to God’s people ultimately work FOR US rather than AGAINST US. Hence, they shouldn’t be habitually viewed as God’s chastisement or punishment, but in many instances, as testimonial expressions of His power **II Corinthians 4:17; 12:8-10.** They are according to God’s Will and don’t spring out of obscurity or by chance, but are by the Will, order and appointment of God in quality, quantity, durations, ends and uses **I Thessalonians 3:3; Job 23:14; Micah 6:9.** Such are consistently merged in the justice, holiness, wisdom, love and goodness of God. For the sake of His workings, afflictions of His people are for their spiritual good and His glory. Understanding of God’s eternal purpose instills our confidence in Him!

We mostly fear, reject and attempt to avoid what we don’t know. On the other hand, we cling to and rely on what we are familiar with. Lack of understanding and unawareness of what God’s Will is, disrupt our lack of confidence in it. Knowledge of what we fear and what God’s Will is in our lives focus beyond the things that challenge us daily and draw our attention to what God’s purpose is in our life. God’s sovereignty is His absolute right to plan and practice everything He wills, unchallenged by anyone. Our awareness of God’s eternal purpose causes us to realize that He has set the agenda for our life. What is seemingly happening is not necessarily what we want but always what God has allowed. When these facts are understood, not only will we trust God’s Will but we will love, welcome and pray for it. God’s Will is complete in Him having done all that is the most appropriate and correct thing that has been, is and can be. Whatever He does, is arranged in His righteousness and perfected in His sufficiency!