

Predestination Or Personal Choice?

Joshua 24:15

Man's freedom of choice is taught throughout the scriptures

John 7:17 "If any man willeth to do his will he shall know of the teaching whether it is of God or whether I speak form myself."

Revelation 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say come. And he that beareth, let him say, come. and he that is athirst, let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely."

Matthew 11:28 "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls, For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Psalms 119:30 "I have chosen the way of faithfulness, Thine ordinances have I set before me"

Kinds of choices we make cf. Matthew 7:24-27

1. Foolish choices: (Lot) Genesis 13, chose the plains of Jordan. (Rehoboam) 1 Kings 12:7-11
2. Wise choices: (Ruth) Ruth 1:16

Power of choice

1. The evil influence of heredity can be overcome by moral choice. cf. Isaiah 37:1
2. The evil influence of environment can be overcome by choices. Philippians 4:22

Predestination

Yet, some say:

- "By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others **foreordained** to everlasting death." (Presbyterian Book Of Confessions, chapter 3:6.016)
- "These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained are particularly and **UNCHANGABLY** designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished." (Presbyterian Book Of Confessions, chapter 3:6.017)

We choose the master we will serve 1 Kings 18:21

- A. God or Idols. 1 Kings 18:21
- B. Christ or Satan. Matthew 12:26, 30
- C. Obedience or sin. Romans 6:16-18
- D. Cannot remain neutral. Must choose. Matthew 12:30
- E. Compromise not possible. Must choose only one. Matthew 6:24; Deuteronomy 4:25

We must choose the **cause for which we live**
Hebrews 11:24-26

- A. Moses at the age of forty was confronted with a choice between two causes. cf. Exodus 2:11ff
1. God's people or the enemy of God's people. Israel or Egypt; Freedom or slavery.
 2. Suffering and affliction or the cause that meant worldly wisdom. cf. Acts 7:22 Pleasure and popularity.
 3. The reason for Moses' choice. Hebrews 11:26
 - a. He knew the pleasures of sin were only for a season.
 - b. He realized that spiritual riches were true riches. cf. Matthew 6:19
 - c. He looked for a recompense of reward. cf. Romans 8:18

We must choose our own **destiny.**
Matthew 7:13ff

Choice is individual.

- A. God is no respecter of persons. Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11-12; 1 Peter 1:17
- B. God does not will that any should perish, but that all should be saved. Titus 2:11; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9

Consider again:

- "By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are **predestinated** unto everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death" (Presbyterian Book Of Confessions, chapter 3:6.016)
- "These angels and men, thus **predestinated** and **foreordained** are particularly and **UNCHANGABLY** designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished." (Presbyterian Book Of Confessions, chapter 3:6.017)

If That Be True, It Would Be Impossible For Man To Err

Yet, Cain killed Abel, and God cursed Cain and commanded, "thou shalt not kill."

1. "Thou shalt not commit adultery," "thou shalt not steal," "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor" Exodus 20:13-16

If That Be True, It Would Be Impossible For Man To Err

- King Saul brought back the best of the Amalekites. 1 Samuel 15
- King Uzziah was cursed with leprosy and died for offering a sacrifice. 2 Chronicles 16:26
- That God forbids certain things and then threatens death to the violator would be inconsistent with the character of God. cf. Romans 1:18-32

- How could God give blessings if he had unchangeably decreed death? Jonah 3:4, 10; 2 Kings 20:1, 5-6
- How could God bless or curse a nation if it is unchangeably decreed? Jeremiah 18:7-10; Deuteronomy 28; Joshua 24; 23:16ff
- How could God destroy the world if man's destiny was unchangeably decreed? Why did God "grieve" over their wickedness? Genesis 6:6

- Choice between God and Satan is immediate.
2 Corinthians 6:2 "... behold now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation..."