

Grace & Truth Ministries

Newsletter

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Predestination: Its Definition, Its Purpose and the reason it is necessary

Predestination is true because we find it in the Bible. Does it matter what it means? Does it have several meanings? Certainly it matters and no it does not have several meanings. Does it really matter what saved means – or faith or prayer or any other word in scripture? Can we just apply any word, any way we please?

That would be like saying that up can be down, sweet is bitter, black is white, good can be evil, right is wrong.

People who say that they believe in predestination but yet at the same time they say that they believe that man has “free will” must redefine the word predestinate as it is defined in the original text. In order to believe in predestination and free will at the same time, one must be so unstable as to call good, evil – black, white – up is down – and right is wrong. It is “Idiocy” to believe such a thing, yet this is what the majority of the preachers of the world are saying. They have interpreted the word predestination according to their own opinion and they are “idiotes”

II Peter 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any “private” interpretation. Prophecy here is the word *propheteia* which means “inspired” words as spoken by an inspired preacher who is called of God. The word “private” in this text is the word “idiotes” from which we get our word idiot. This word *idiotes* means “unlearned”. The word “idea” comes from the word *idiotes*. Man has his own “idea”

or opinion when he redefines a word of scripture, especially a word with all the depth of predestination. Such a man is an “idiot” And he is unlearned.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first born among many brethren.

Every word in this verse has an exact meaning. We will address all these words in the future but for the present we will look at the word “predestinate”. Before we do this, there is a purpose why God must predestinate himself a family. The reason that God must predestinate a family is that all men are dead in sin. They are all depraved, totally, and completely without any light, truth, ability, or “will” to make themselves alive. They cannot bring about their own spiritual birth by their will.

Romans 3:10, 11

10)-- There is none righteous, no, not one

11)-- there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God

Psalms 39:5 -- every man at his best state is altogether vanity

Isaiah 64:7 -- there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth (*uwr* – wake up from the dead) up himself to take hold of thee

Man has no ability or good in himself to be willing to come alive in Christ. Job said that all men drink iniquity like water (Job 15:16). It is by the will of God and not man that he is caused to come alive in Christ.

Job 14:4 Who can bring a clean thing out of unclean? Not one.

Proverbs 20:9,12

9) Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

12) The hearing (*shama*- obedient) ear and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them.

James says concerning the new birth:

James 1:18 -- of his own will begat he us with the word of truth

The word "will" in this verse is the word *boulema*, meaning purpose. When man is dead in sin he has no righteous purpose in himself.

John tells us by whose will we receive new birth.

John 1:13 Which were born (spiritually) not of blood, Nor of the "will" of the flesh, nor of the "will" of man, But of God

Man does not determine whether he will be "born again" and become a son of God.

To those who believe they can "accept Christ" by their own, so-called, "free will", this is one verse that I cannot see how they justify in their minds. The word "will" in this verse is the word *Thelema* and it means determination. Man does not "determine" his salvation (which is the new birth) by his own will.

The Bible does not teach "Accept Christ as your personal saviour" in order to be saved. Paul says that the physical man is sensual and he cannot "accept Christ".

I Corinthians 2:14 -- the natural (*psuchikos* – physical, sensual man) receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The word “receiveth” in this verse (I Cor. 2:14) is the Greek word *dechomai*. The word dech is the word ten, from which we get the word decade (ten years) and the word decalogue (ten words/ ten commandments). This word receiveth means to reach out willingly with the ten fingers (a figurative word of speech) and “accept” an offer that has been made. If a man could make the decision to “accept” Christ by some righteous ability that was in him, then he could take credit for the beginning of his salvation.

Philippians 1:16 He that hath “begun” (God the Father) a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ

Philippians 2:13 It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure

You say, “Jim, are you saying that all these preachers who preach about accepting Christ as a personal saviour are not telling the Truth?”. **THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I AM SAYING.** They are deceived and deceivers. They are lying, whether they are intentionally doing it or not.

You say, “What about the sinners prayer?”. Doesn’t the Bible say, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Rom. 10:13)? The “so called” sinners prayer is not the method of salvation. The next verse tells the method of salvation

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?

When the Philippian jailer came to Paul and Silas (Acts 16:30), he asked the question that has puzzled the mind of man from the beginning of time.

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Paul did not take him

down the “Romans road” and say, “Do you know you are a sinner?” “Would you like to ‘git’ saved? Just repeat this prayer after me and really mean it in your heart.” This is one of the most idiotic statements. I’ve never heard a man sincerely seeking the Lord, say “I’m going to pray this prayer, but I’m not going to mean it”

Paul answered the Philippian jailer with no frills of salvation. He gave him no unnecessary word. His answer was straight and point blank, **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”**

How men that call themselves preachers can muddy up such a simple answer is beyond me.

Now, Paul did not say, “Believe that a man named Jesus once was alive on the earth and he claimed to be God in the flesh.”

Where preachers have deserted truth is their failure to discern what the phrase **“believe on the Lord Jesus Christ”** means.

“Believe” means to have faith in someone in opposition of trusting all others, including ones own self. Believe is the verb form of the noun, faith. Let me give you these two Greek words from the original text.

Believe – *pisteuo* – entrust or commit to entrust, to have faith, put in trust with

Some will say, how do you “put trust in someone or something?”. First of all, you must quit believing yourself or anyone else. Don’t trust a man and most of all don’t trust yourself (your sinners prayer or your “accept Christ” gospel). Believing God is believing him in opposition to believing self. It is having something in you that opposes self or “crucifies” self. That is called “born again”. When Jesus told Nicodemus, “Ye must be born again” (John 3:7) the word “again” is the Greek word:

Anothen – from above, from the first, anew, from the beginning, the top (**II Thess. 2:13** God hath “from the beginning” chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth.) “Again” or *Anothen*

comes from the word ano meaning upward or on the top, above, high, or up.

The primary root of the word is anti meaning “in opposition to”, instead, contrast, or substitution.

Here it is! The opposition to self in “believing” Christ is new birth or “born again”. When man opposes himself and trusts in another, it is because he cannot trust his own ability to “accept Christ” or pray the sinners prayer for salvation. He must be born with a birth from above, which is Christ *in us* (Col. 1:27) that opposes this outer man, which is “self”. Self must die and man has no ability to bring about his own physical birth, much less a spiritual birth. Before conception in a womb occurs, the future being that is to be conceived by its parents does not say, “I accept you as my parents”. How can he or she “accept” his parents, He (she) does not exist yet. This sounds ridiculous, I realize, yet that is what a man is saying when he says, “I am dead in sin, and I have no life in me and I am not a spiritual being yet I have enough life, light, will or being to will myself into spiritual existence”. That would be like a man saying, “I died once and I willed myself to come alive from the dead”. Man does not make himself alive in new birth. The word “quicken” is the Greek word zoopoieo meaning to “make alive”. Its root words are:

Zoon – (we see live animals in a zoo) alive thing, animal

Poieo – make or do

(Therefore, quicken means “to make alive”.) God quickens (makes alive), man does not.

John 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth (*Zoopoieo*) them; even so the Son (Jesus) quickeneth (*Zoopoieo*) whom he will (“will” is the word *etheleo* – to determine, desire, be disposed, please)

John 6:63 It is the Spirit that quickeneth (makes alive); the flesh profiteth nothing (It is not of the will of the flesh – John 1:13)

Ephesians 2: 1, 5

1) And you hath he quickened (*Zoopoieo* – made alive/ born again) who were dead –

5) – when we were dead in sins, hath quickened (*zoopoieo*) us together with Christ.

This “Believing” that is in us – which opposes self and believes Jesus Christ in (opposition to all others) is the new birth. It is called being born again with a birth in us that opposes this flesh daily (self denial/ daily cross). This “quickenning” or coming alive has nothing to do with the will of man or “accepting Christ”. This is the great lie of the apostasy that is in full force in the world today.

Salvation is death to “self will”. Believe is the verb (*pisteuo*), faith is the noun (*pistis*).

The definition of faith in the text of scripture:

Hebrews 11:1 Faith is the substance of things hoped for

There is only one faith (Eph.4:5 – one Lord, **“one faith”**, one Baptism). There is not a faith for salvation then another faith that is like a “magic bubble” that gets what self wants. Faith dies to self and opposes self (in new birth).

Faith equals substance

Regardless of what preachers say, “substance” does not mean money, houses, cars, things, and stuff. Faith believes God for what he wants in our lives in opposition to what we want (self, things, position, fortune, fame etc.).

By defining the word “substance” we find that opposition (*anti*) in us that we cannot do ourselves.

Substance – hupostasis – a setting under (support) assurance, confidence, confident, person,

From two words:

Hupo – under of place (beneath) or with verbs (the agency or means, through) underneath, below, inferior position or condition (under or through).

Stao or Histemi – to stand (transitive or intransitive/ the act or state of being) abide, appoint, continue, establish, hold up, set up

From stao we get the following:

Stasis – a standing (the act) position (existence) uprising, controversy

Stauros – the Greek word for cross a stake or a post (as set upright) a pole or cross (as an instrument of capital punishment) self denial, atonement

Stauroo – the word crucify or impale on a cross, extinguish, subdue passion or subdue selfishness

Stereos – stiff, solid, stable, steadfast, strong, sure

Faith is the crucifying of self and continuing (through/*hupo*) daily, standing (*stasis*) upright (*histemi/ stao*). Faith is continuing through (*hupo*), undergoing the daily cross, crucifying self and dying daily. When a man opposes himself he takes sides with God against himself. Since man is unable to die to the flesh and deny self (he is dead in sin – he does not seek after God), God must arrange the lives of his elect. God prepares the “good ground” (fertile ground – our hearts) ahead of time. Then he arranges for his elect to hear the preaching of the truth (riding down the road in a car – talking to a friend etc.). He sends the seed (*Sperma* –

masculine gender) which is the word (Christ made flesh – John 1:14) of God. The seed is the most powerful, potent seed that has ever existed. It hits the fertile ground (our hearts of flesh) that God has prepared before the foundation of the world. It is impossible for the fertile seed to be sewn in fertile ground (with all the necessary planting, oxygen, and necessary husbandry (I Cor. 3:9)) by the farmer /the Father and not have life spring forth.

I Corinthians 3:9 -- Ye are Gods husbandry

(“husband” is the word *georgion* – farm, cultivatable – from *ge* meaning soil or ground, and *ergon* meaning toil, work, or labour. From *georgos* meaning “earthworker or farmer”.

The word husband means farmer or tiller of the earth.

It is the farmer or the husband of the crop that planted the seed. The Rabbis said that the male genital was the plow and the woman's genital was called the garden or the furrow where the husband (farmer) planted the seed. If the womb was open, then the ground or womb was fruitful or fertile. A family was a kingdom. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were God's family or kingdom. Jacobs name was changed to Israel. Kingdom of God was an old ancient name for Israel. Israel was God's family.

It is not by choice that a man is conceived and birthed into a family. It is by the will of the father. The field is plowed by the husband or farmer and seed (sperma) is planted into good ground. It is an utter impossibility to plant good seed (the word/ sperma of God) into fertile ground by the husband (father/ farmer) and not bring forth life. It is impossible for you to say truth (word/ seed) to the elect, regardless of how you say it, and them not come alive. Quit worrying about whether or not you are convincing. The farm hand does not worry about whether he put the seed in the ground with the right hand or the left or if he did it gentle enough.

The word father in the Hebrew is the word *Ab* and it means “to decide or desire”. It is by the will of the father (husband/ farmer) that a child is born. It is by the will of a farmer that a crop

is planted and nourished in the good ground. The child has no more will to be birthed than corn has the desire to grow on the stalk. The child is caused to be willing to obey the father after he is born, but he has no part in his conception, coming into being or birth. When the father plants the seed (by arrangement of events) into good (fertile) ground, the miracle of conception happens and it is impossible for the child who is come into being to choose to be or not to be conceived and birthed. The child who is not in existence, yet, cannot say, "I do not choose for my fathers sperm to fertilize my mothers egg, even though they are not my father and my mother (yet) and I have not yet come into existence."

You say, "Jim, this sounds stupid". That is exactly what I am saying about "accept Christ". When a dead sinner is not alive he cannot choose to be birthed into God's family (kingdom) or to reject him since new birth is of God (James 1:18). He does not exist (spiritually) yet. Dead men cannot make "living" or life decisions.

Seed that is planted by the husband/ farmer must die in order for life to come from it.

I Corinthians 15:36 That which thou sowest is not quickened (*zoopoieo* – made alive) , except it die.

John 12:24 Verily, Verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

Therefore faith (death to self) does not begin in our lives until God puts it into our hearts. Faith is the substance (continual dying daily) and it believes God and opposes self. Faith is not a one time thing. Faith increases and grows (II Peter 1:5 – Luke 17:5-10) until the day we go to be with God. Faith believes God and obeys him. Faith opposes self (the flesh) and is disobedient to self. Faith

denies (*aparneomai* – utterly contradicts – Luke 9:23) self and takes up the cross daily in order to obey God.

Romans 10:17 Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God

This word hear is the word

Akouo – to understand and obey

The New Testament word for “obey” is the word hupakouo. It comes from *hupo* meaning under and *akouo* meaning to hear under as a subordinate – “to hear is to obey”. Faith comes about by the scourge or the rod.

The Old Testament Hebrew word for “hear”, “hearken”, and obey is the same word:

Shama – to hear intelligently, attention, intelligence, consent, be content (with God’s decision for our life), “be obedient” understand or witness (which is the word *martus* in the Greek – *martus* comes from martyr). Faith is to martyr oneself by proclaiming truth. Faith is to martyr oneself by the daily cross in order that we obey God. Predestination is conforming and obeying God.

Death to self is faith that we are predestined unto. Faith is death to self (death to the flesh by the daily cross) so that the new birth (born again – in opposition to the flesh) shall take over (instead of or in the place of the old man). Since mans only desire is to fulfill the flesh and he is unable by his total sinful nature (Rom. 3:10-12, Psalms 39:5) to make himself alive (*zoopoieo* – quicken) God had to choose himself a family and birth them, otherwise, he would never have a family. He chooses us, births us according to his will, then when we come to a realization that we are his we must obey him (which is faith). Like faith, the gospel and truth, predestination is about obedience. He causes this obedience by the scourge, chastisement or the rod. This obedience (accountability/ responsibility) is what predestination is all about. The “scourge” causes us to do what he has “predestined” us unto. It causes us to do what we cannot bring ourselves to do.

“Predestination” is about obedience to the word of God and living inside the “border or boundaries” which he hath set down for us. This leads us into the word predestinate (not a general opinion, but rather an exact definition).

Romans 8:29,30

29) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Predestinate is the Greek word *Pro'orizo*. *Pro'orizo* means to prebound or predetermine boundary lines in advance. *Pro'orizo* is a construction of the prefix *pro* (our prefix “pre”, meaning before) and the Greek word

Orizo – to bound or to mark out a boundary, to appoint, decree, specify, declare, determine, limit, ordain

The small mark ‘ before the word *Orizo* is called a diacritical mark. It has an “h” sound. The word *orizo* is written “**Horizo**” and pronounced, “**Horidzo**” (the “z” is pronounced “dz” in the Greek). This word looks similar to our word “Horizon”. That is because it is exactly our word horizon.

The horizon was a very familiar boundary line to Jewish mind. It was the division or the boundary of **light** (day) and **darkness** (night). Jesus said, “Ye are the light of the world.” (Matt. 5:14). Light is equated with Truth throughout scripture. Paul said, “Ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord, walk as children of light. – have no fellowship with unfruitful

works of darkness” (Eph. 5:8,11). Again, Paul said, “Be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers – what communion hath light with darkness?” (II Cor. 6:14). Unbelievers are equated as living in darkness, therefore believers are equated with light – light is always equivalent to Truth. We are commanded to walk in the light.

1 John 1:5-7

5) This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6) If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

We are commanded to do the Truth (the light is Truth).

John 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

We have been predetermined for the boundary of truth, or light. God has pre-truthed his family to walk righteously and conform to Christ’s image (*eikon* – representation). God has pre-horizoned his family before the foundation of the world. God has conceived and birthed his family by his own will.

James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth (*Zoopoieo* – make alive) them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

Quickened means to make alive – God begets us as his children and makes us alive in his family. After we come alive (by the will of God), he requires obedience to the light (Truth) inside the boundary (‘*orizo*) of light. Truth is something we “do”. It is not mere mental assent (John 3:21). Righteousness is what a man does – not merely a moral state or disposition.

1 John 3:7,10

7) Little children, let no man deceive you: he that “doeth” righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

10) In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever “doeth not” righteousness is not of God --

Birth is into a Family or Kingdom. You see, in the ancient world a family was called a kingdom. In fact, the Kingdom of God was God’s family. Kingdom of God was an old ancient term for Israel. You say, “Jim, how can Israel be a family?” Israel was nothing but a family. God made a covenant with Abraham and his seed (children). This is a family.

Genesis 17:7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

God continued this covenant with Abraham's "2nd" born son Isaac (this is a family)

Genesis 17:21 --my covenant will I establish with Isaac,--

Isaac gives the birthright to his "2nd" born son Jacob (even through deception – Gen. 25:29-34, Gen. 27:1-29). Then God confirms that Jacob (of the "family" of Abraham) will continue to be God's family. Then, in Jacob this family becomes a nation or kingdom – In this "family" of Abraham, God changes Jacob's name to "Israel" causing this family to become a kingdom (or nation).

Genesis 32:28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

Genesis 35:10 And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.

"Lord" was the title of the head of a family just as it was the title for the head of a kingdom. Jacob (or Israel) had 12 sons (a family). They become the "Kingdom of God" with God's chosen king coming from Judah the fourth son of Jacob (of the family or Kingdom of God). God's people are birthed by his will into his family (kingdom). Just as any righteous father requires obedience (remember, faith cometh by hearing, hear means to obey) in his household, so God sets a prearranged border/ boundary (*pro'orizo*) by which he requires his people to walk. Every responsible father sets rules and laws for those to walk in his family. We are not saved by works of self righteousness or ritual. We are saved by God working in us.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Faith dies to self and comes alive in God's kingdom (Israel). Yes, we are spiritual Jews (Rom. 2:28-29). We are the spiritual temple (I Cor. 3:16) – we offer daily acceptable sacrifice (Luke 9:23, Rom. 12:1) we are the priests of God (I Peter 2:5,9) we are God's house (Heb. 3:16). The Holy of Holies was called the house of God where God dwelt (built a house) between the cherubim – Now our hearts (not the ark of the covenant) are sprinkled by the blood of Christ (I Peter 1:2, Heb. 10:22). We are circumcised with a spiritual circumcision (Col 2:11). Circumcision was for cleanliness in sexual reproduction for future generation of a family. It was “the” requirement for all who entered this family (kingdom). The male genital had to be circumcised in order to keep the commandment of God in order that future “healthy” generations would be produced in this family/kingdom. The word father in the Hebrew is the word *Ab*. It means to decide or desire. We are God's family and he has willed and decided the children that he will possess. He has determined exactly who his children and family will be and their obedience in his kingdom, as well. We as the predestined elect are the spiritual kingdom, the Israel (to prevail) of God.

Galatians 6:15,16

15) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

16) And as many as walk according to this rule, (*Kanon* – standard scripture, “boundary”) peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

God has predestinated his family to live in his word or boundary. A father determines that his children will live in the borders, which are his rules, as the head of the family. The boundary is the word of the father.

Romans 9:6,7

6) -- For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel

7) Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. (Isaac was raised from the dead – this is the resurrection.)

Isaac was raised from the dead loins of his father and the dead womb of his mother (**Rom. 4:19,20**). Abraham was 100 years old, Sarah was ninety. They could not have a son – **BUT THEY DID!!!**

Romans 11:7 Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded

What does all this spiritual family/kingdom of Israel have to do with predestination? It has everything to do with it. Let me tell you.

The Septuagint was the first translation of scripture. It is one of our most reliable translations. Septuagint means “seventy”. Seventy Greek/ Hebrew scholars translated the Hebrew text of the Old Testament into the Greek language. Since the Greek had many roots and customs from the ancient Hebrew world, the Septuagint is said to be one of the most reliable (if not the most reliable) translations word for word.

In the book of Joshua, God preset the borders and boundaries of Israel (the kingdom/ family). The nation (kingdom/family)

would occupy certain borders. When the word border was translated from the Hebrew to the Greek, the seventy translators understood the most common word for border (*gebul*). This “border” of Israel, they translated to the word

‘ORIZO

Yes, the border of Israel was prearranged. The law was received by Moses, from God on Mount Sinai in the South Sinai Peninsula fifty days into the desert after the first passover in Egypt (when I see the blood on the doorposts I will pass over you). The first Pentecost was at Mount Sinai. Pentecost was fifty days after passover. Moses received the prearranged law (Truth/light) by which Israel would be required to live (in the kingdom/family) when they reached the ‘orizo (border/ horizon) where the truth would come forth from Mount Zion (where the temple sits in Jerusalem). Zion means “sunny” or where the sun shines (inside the Horizon/ ‘orizo). Israel was predestined (*pro’orizo*) to conform to the Word (the Word was made flesh **John 1:14**) of God. As spiritual Jews, the predestined elect are predestinated to be conformed (*summorphos* – shaped in fellowship of Christ’s sufferings) to the image (*eikon*- representation) of his Son (Jesus, the Word and the authority of God). No, this is not salvation by works. It is God working in his children whom he has begotten by his own will in his family/kingdom. God’s kingdom (Israel) is called the Kingdom of Light.

Colossians 1:12,13

12) Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light (the ‘orizo)

13) Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son

Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will

Our inheritance is God's family/ kingdom (of light and Truth). Israel received the prearranged word (light) by which they would walk (at the first Pentecost, meaning 50th day after passover). When they left Egypt they went straight to Sinai to receive the Holy Spirit or Word of God by which God had prearranged they should walk inside the preordained 'orizo (Mt. Sinai, when Moses received the law was, indeed, the 1st Pentecost. This receiving of the law happened 50 days after the 1st Passover when Israel was liberated from Egypt). It was set ahead of time

- The Holy Spirit is Truth (**John 14:16,17- John 15:26 – John 16:13- I John 5:6**)
- Thy word is Truth (the light) **John 17:17**

Obedience to Truth (the light/ word/ Spirit) has been prearranged in us. Remember that faith cometh by hearing (hear and obey are the same word in Hebrew and Greek). Faith dies to self and obeys God. We do not obey God in order to be in his family, but rather, we obey because we are in his family.

Forgiveness (the same word as remission) is the word *aphesis* and it means to pardon and release from prison. The word prison has the same meaning as horizon ('orizo). Prison is the Greek word *phulake* meaning the division of day and night or light and darkness. God arranged the forgiveness of his particular elect family before the foundation of the world. Paul said that we were prisoners of darkness but now we are prisoners of Christ (the light)

Forgiveness is not free. The cost is repentance. No one gets out of jail free, that only works in Monopoly. Forgiveness is to be released from prison. Prisoners are not released unless they show

remorse and are repentant. Since there is nothing intrinsically (belonging to the real nature of a thing, inherent) good in man, and none will ever seek after God if left to himself, God chooses his family by name, births them into his family/ kingdom, and causes them to walk according to the predestinated (pro'orizo) border and laws of Israel. Only God can cause repentance.

Jeremiah 31:18,19

18) -- turn thou me, and I shall be turned --

**19) Surely after that I was turned, I repented --
(remember, none seeketh after God)**

God told Israel that if they were not obedient to his words that he would send four judgements: the **Sword**, the **Famine**, the **Pestilence**, and the **Beast** (world ruling system). God scattered Israel (his family) over the face of the earth because of **Baal** (**Hercules**) fire worship and the **grove** (**Venus**) tree worship. For 510 years as a nation/ kingdom/ family. He rejected Israel and said that he would call his people by another name (Spiritual Israel/ Gentile Church). Isaiah repeatedly speaks of God releasing the prisoners from the prisonhouse (the Gentiles as the spirits in prison were in darkness/ prison with no truth/ light from Abraham to Christ). God had only given his Spirit or Word to one flesh (the family/ kingdom of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/ Israel). Isaiah was in agreement with Joel that God will pour out of his Spirit (light/Truth) on all flesh (red, yellow, black, white, brown) during the last days -**Joel 2:28** (the last 2000 years – a day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day – **II Peter 3:8**) God had only given his Word/ Light/ Spirit to one family, one kingdom, one flesh until the times of the Gentiles. Isaiah put it this way:

Isaiah 42:6 I the LORD have called thee -- for a light of the Gentiles;

Isaiah 42:7 To open the blind (darkened) eyes, to bring out the prisoners (unforgiven) from the prison,

and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house. (They were outside of the boundary or 'orizo.)

Isaiah 49:6 --I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles—(all flesh, *ethnos*)

Isaiah 61:1 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me -- to proclaim liberty to the captives (in darkness), and the opening of the prison (forgiveness – darkness to light/ 'orizo) to them that are bound

Isaiah 62:2 -- the Gentiles (in darkness) shall see thy righteousness—

Isaiah 65:1 -- I am found of them that sought me not (Gentiles in darkness shall come to the 'orizo/ light)Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name (the Gentiles)

Isaiah 65:15 (God speaking to Israel) --for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name (the Gentiles)

Predestination is not some fatalistic doctrine taught by some that you get to Heaven (a term for Israel), no matter what you do. No, That Is Not It!!!

You get to Heaven because God chooses and births whom he will into the borders ('Orizo) of his family/ kingdom. Then like any good father who loves his children, he chastises and scourges them, causing them to obey the laws that he has set down before the foundation of the world

Heb 12:6-10

- 6) For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.
- 7) If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? (He causes us to obey his border/ 'orizo)
- 8) But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.
- 9) Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?
- 10) For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

II Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth

John 6:37,39

37) All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

39) 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.

God has called the Gentiles (all flesh) to the 'Orizo, the border of Light and Truth.

God "foreknew" a particular people among the Gentiles as his elect, he calls us his children or his sons.

The word "foreknow" does not mean to "know about". **Rom 8:29** does not say, "For whom he did foreknow about..." or, "Whom God foreknew would come to him in the future by their own 'free will' ". It does not say or even imply, for whom God foreknew had enough goodness in him to come to God by "accepting" Christ even though he is dead in sin. People who preach that man has a free will try to get around predestination through this word "foreknow". They say, "God knew who would be saved, he knew who would "accept" him in the future. They ignore the verses that say -- there is none righteous, none seeketh after God. -- Every man at his best state is altogether vanity -- man drinks iniquity like water -- who can say I have made myself clean? -- who can bring a clean thing out of unclean? Not one. They forget that man is dead in trespasses and sin, he is without life, without righteousness, he cannot make living decisions. **HE'S DEAD!** Dead men cannot make themselves alive by their decisions. The only thing they can participate in is being dead, and they can't even decide that. Remember, that the natural man (man of the senses) cannot "accept" Christ (**I Cor. 2:14**).

God "foreknew" his family from the foundation of the world (**Eph. 1:14 – II Thess. 2:13 – II Tim. 1:9**).

"Foreknow" is the Greek word

proginosko – to know beforehand

It is from the roots

pro – meaning "before", and

ginosko – meaning to know intimately or exactly

This is from the word

gnosis – meaning science or knowledge

This is the same word that Jesus will use toward false teachers when he says to them, "I never 'knew' you" (**Matt. 7:23**). He is

saying, "Though you claim to be my children saying Lord, Lord, I have never had a personal intimate relationship with you. You are no friend or relative of mine." The concept of "carnal knowledge" comes from the word *ginosko*. Carnal knowledge (*ginosko*) means to have a sexual or intimate relationship. It has the same meaning as -- Adam knew (had a sexual relationship) his wife Eve, she conceived and bore a son". From the word *proginosko* (foreknow), we get the word "progenitor" meaning to beget forth by a forefather or ancestor in direct lineage -- it means the originator of a family. We also get the word "progeny" (from *proginosko*) which means "offspring", "descent", "lineage", "race", or "family".

God foreknew his elect as his. He said of Jeremiah, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee, and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified (*gadash* – to be – make, pronounce, or observe as clean, consecrate, hallow, appoint, purify) thee, and I ordained thee a prophet to the nations. (Jer. 1:5)

Man cannot wake himself from the dead by calling on God. He cannot pray a sinners' prayer while he is dead in sin.

Isaiah 64:7 -- there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth (*uwr*- to wake up from the dead) up himself to take hold of thee:

Isaiah 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand. (We are not the work of our own hand nor are we, as clay, willing to make ourselves righteous. The will of the clay is never involved in the forming of a vessel of honour.)

Rom 9:21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour (Jacob), and another unto dishonour (Esau)? (God does as he pleases.)

Rom 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?

The Bible plainly states in this verse that you can't pray a "sinners prayer" to a God in which you do not believe. I do not pray to Zeus, the father of the gods in Mythology. The reason I do not pray to him is that I do not believe in him. That would be like calling out to an imaginary being that you do not believe exists.

When Jesus healed the man who was born blind in John 9, he was accused of being a sinner. The blind man that he healed said of this accusation:

John 9:31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

The man who is dead in his sin cannot call upon God. First of all, he doesn't believe in God. Secondly, the scripture says that he must be worshipping God and doing his will before God will hear him. God doesn't listen to a man "try" to pray who doesn't believe in him. So, you see, there is no sinners' prayer for salvation. Believing (death to self and obedience) comes before calling. Believing is the method of salvation, not praying.

Remember, believe (pistuo) is the verb form of faith (pistis), the noun. Faith comes by hearing (akouo). Hear and obey are the same word in Hebrew (shama) and the same word in the Greek (akouo/hupakouo). Solomon said only God made the hearing (obedient) ear (Prov. 20:12). Faith (believe/ hear/ obey) is the gift (doron – sacrifice) of God (Eph. 2:8). If God does not put faith in our hearts we will never believe or obey him by our own, "so called" freewill.

James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us --

John 1:13 (Speaking of new birth) **Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

Prayer or "accept Christ" does not birth us, God does.

Predestination is a family thing!

We will continue this study on predestination in our next newsletter.

Jim Brown

Grace & Truth Ministries

John 1:17 -- grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 9:18 -- I make the gospel of Christ without charge --