

“Predestination and Free Will”

Rev. 22:17

Introduction

- I. Does mankind have the ability to choose salvation or condemnation?
- II. There are many in the religious world who misunderstand the doctrine of predestination.
- III. Let us study what the Bible has recorded on these matters.

Discussion

- I. Some believe that man's decisions have no part in matters of salvation.
 - A. Consider the following: “God has predestined and foreordained some men and angels to everlasting life out of His free grace and love without any foresight of faith or works in man or perseverance in either of them, and others are foreordained to everlasting death and the number of either is so certain and definite that it cannot be increased or diminished.” (The Westminster Confession of Faith).
 - B. This view is part of the system of belief known as Calvinism (named after it's proponent, John Calvin).
- II. The Bible does teach predestination, but not the Calvinistic view (Eph. 1:3-5, 11; Rom. 8:29-30).
 - A. How are we God's “chosen”?
 1. We must be “called” by the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:14).
 2. We must be “in him”, which is “in Christ” (Gal. 3:26-29).
 3. Therefore, God predestined that salvation is found “in Christ”.
 4. It is man's decision as to whether he will obey the Gospel, and thus be placed “in Christ”.
 - B. If mankind has no part in matters of salvation, then how can certain verses be explained (Mark 16:15-16; Jos. 24:15; Matt. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17)?
- III. Man has free will, and is able to decide whether he will obey God (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:6; Rom. 6:16, 20-23; Matt. 7:13-14).
 - A. Those who choose to obey will have salvation (Heb. 5:9).
 - B. Those who choose not to obey will have condemnation (Rom. 1:28-32).

Conclusion

- I. Let us make the appropriate choice to be saved!
- II. No one can make that choice for you.