



Blackfoot Church of Christ

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What Will be, Will Be

William C. "Bill" Sexton

Many people have come to accept the idea that what will be, will be. Such is pre-determined, and there is nothing that can change or alter that event. Is such true?

This goes back to the old Calvinistic view of predestination and fore-ordination! I for one, one time in my life, accepted that idea. I'm not sure just when or how I arrived at that conclusion. I suspect that it grew out of two factors: 1) My misconception of God, that He had the power and thus did determine everything; 2) It let me off the hook, for if God determined what would or would not occur, then I was not to blame or responsible for things going wrong or right.

The Bible, of course, does teach that all things are possible with God

Mark 9:23, "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."

Nothing is too great for God. Yet, God has demonstrated over and over that He gives man the choice, and man can add to his happiness or his misery.

One passage, if there were no others, indicate that some things happen "by chance," however. If that is the case, then not all things are predetermined by God. Look carefully at the statements by Jesus:

Luke 10:31 "And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side."

We may think that by assigning everything to predetermination, then we are accepting God's power and glorifying Him. Such is not the case, however. When we do such, we relegate man's position and responsibility to that of a

robot, that of an inanimate machine. God, however, has made man in His "image," giving him the power of choice and thus places on him responsibility.

It is true, of course, that certain things have been determined by God, and man cannot change them. Such as it is appointed once for man to die and then he faces judgment (Heb. 9:27). et, man can and does have a lot to do with the length and quality of his life. He can and does shorten his life, by unwise selection of food and drink in qualities and quantities. His exercises, work activities, recreational selections, etc. etc...all contribute to the shortness or longevity of life. Let us be wise in regard to such. Also, let us recognize that the providence of God is working. We cannot always be sure as to just when His providence is at work, yet, let us recognize that such can be a factor and be appreciative for such.

God has predetermined that man has to be "in Christ" to be saved eternally (Eph. 1:3--12). He has provided that salvation and His love wants us to be saved. However, we have to be active in that process. Many people are at odds with what the Bible says on this topics, so they speak and act as though God will save them if He wants to. But if He chooses not do then there is really nothing that they can do one way or the other; it's already determined before one is born. That may be comforting or very disturbing, depending on the way one views the outcome.

It would take one off the hook, however, if it be true, and it is my view that such is the part that makes it acceptable, to many people. It is not truth, however. It is destructive to man, because really one does have to be active, and if he/she allows this concept to keep them in the dark, then they'll ultimately be lost. So, beloved, wake up. Read your Bible and act, NOW! You do indeed have a choice, and thus you are responsible for saving your soul (Cf. Acts 2:40)). Likewise, if you are lost, you'll have no one to blame but yourself.

God's plan is simple enough for any "average", reasoning person to understand. Faith in God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ are essentials of the first order (Heb. 11:6; Jn. 8:24, 21). Repentance is commanded just as clearly (Acts 17:30-31). Confession of the mouth in the Sonship of Jesus, also, is clearly taught by way of statement and example and, explaining that it is "unto salvation" (Matt. 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:9-10). With the same abundance of evidence and clarity, baptism in water for the remission of sins is a necessity (Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 8:35-40; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4).

Faithfulness until death, likewise is pointed to as being necessary and sufficient (Rev. 2:10; Matt. 24:11-13).

These are things that we can do! Shall we?

You are God's Special People

by Joe R Price

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (1 Peter 2:9, NKJV)

All the earth and all who dwell on it belong to the Lord God, but Christians are God's own special people (Psalm 24:1). The word "special" conveys an idea of acquisition and possession. We have been acquired by God, purchased or redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18-19). We belong to Him and not ourselves (1 Corinthians 6:20). Here again we see the value of the church from heaven's point of view since Christ purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28). The church, God's purchased possession, will be redeemed eternally when Christ delivers it up to God on resurrection day (Ephesians 1:14; 1 Corinthians 15:23-24). Having been purchased by Christ's blood, we are purified to accomplish God's purposes. As "His own special people" we are redeemed from sin to be "zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14). Therefore, we bear a great responsibility to represent God faithfully and honorably in this world (1 Peter 2:11-12). Belonging to God means we arm ourselves with the mind of Christ and live for the will of God, not for the lusts of men (1 Peter 4:1-2). We belong to God. Let us live for His will, not our own.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- April fell during a seizure breaking her nose and likely has a concussion
- Tom & Kate are in Colorado and will be traveling to the Lectures this week and returning to Colorado for a family reunion before returning home.
- Chad & Kass will be traveling to Colorado for a family reunion this week.
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class at Chad and Kass' on evangelism is postponed.

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<u>Today</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Lord's Table – David Porter Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Kyle Callahan Invitation – Ross Ward
<u>Next Sunday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – David Porter Lord's Table – Kyle Callahan Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Next Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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