

## UNIT 2

### PREDESTINATION

“The doctrine of this high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care, so that men, taking heed to the will of God revealed in his Word and yielding obedience to it, may—from the certainty of their effectual calling—be assured of their eternal election. Thus, this doctrine shall provide reason for praise, reverence, and admiration of God; and for humility, diligence, and abundant consolation to all who sincerely obey the gospel.”

—Westminster Confession of Faith

## I/ Foundational Assumptions

### A. The sovereignty of God

1 Chronicles 29:10-12

Job 42:1-2

Isaiah 46:8-10

Psalms 115:3

Proverbs 16:4

Isaiah 14:24,27

Isaiah 46:9-11

Daniel 4:35

Matthew 19:26

Romans 11:33-36

Colossians 1:15-17

“If there is one single molecule in this universe running around loose, totally free of God’s sovereignty, then we have no guarantee that a single promise of God will ever be fulfilled.” —R.C. Sproul

“There is no attribute of God more comforting to His children than the doctrine of divine sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe

trials, they believe that sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that sovereignty overrules them, and that sovereignty will sanctify them all. There is nothing for which the children of God ought to more earnestly contend than the dominion of their Master over all creation – the kingship of God over all the works of His own Hands—the throne of God, and His right to sit upon that throne. On the other hand, there is no doctrine that is more hated by worldlings, no truth of which they have made such a football, as the great, stupendous, but yet most certain doctrine of the sovereignty of the infinite Jehovah. Men will allow God to be everywhere except upon His throne. They will allow him to be in His workshop to fashion worlds and to make stars. They will allow Him to be in His almonry to dispense His alms and bestow His bounties. They will allow Him to sustain the earth and bear up the pillars thereof, or light the lamps of Heaven, or rule the waves of the ever-moving ocean; but when God ascends His throne, His creatures gnash their teeth; and when we proclaim an enthroned God, and His right to do as He wills with His own, to dispose of His creatures as He thinks well, without consenting with them on the matter, then it is that we are hissed and execrated, and then it is that men turn a deaf ear to us, for God on His throne is not the God that they love...But it is God upon His throne that we love, it is God upon His throne we trust.”

—Charles Spurgeon

## B. The goodness of God

1 Chronicles 16:34

Psalms 25:8

Psalms 145:9

Psalms 34:8

Psalms 119:68

1 Peter 2:3

Titus 3:4

Romans 8:38

C. The sinfulness (total depravity) of man

Psalm 51:5

Psalm 58:3

Ecclesiastes 7:20

Ecclesiastes 9:3

Jeremiah 13:23

Jeremiah 17:9

Romans 8:7-8

1 Corinthians 2:14

Ephesians 2:1-3

Romans 3

## II/ The Doctrine of Predestination (Election)

A. Definition

B. Biblical evidence

i. The Old Testament

Amos 3:2

Deuteronomy 14:2

Ezekiel 20:5

Deuteronomy 4:37-29

Isaiah 44:1-2

Isaiah 64:8

Deuteronomy 10:14-15  
Deuteronomy 7:6-8  
Psalm 65:4  
Exodus 33:19

ii. Jesus

Matthew 11:27  
Matthew 22:14  
Matthew 24:22,24,31  
Luke 18:7  
Luke 10:21-22  
John 15:6  
John 10:24-26  
John 6:35-37

iii. The rest of the New Testament

Acts 13:48  
Acts 18:27  
Romans 8:28-30,33  
Romans 9:10-13  
Romans 10:20  
Romans 11:7  
1 Corinthians 1:27-29  
Ephesians 1:3-6  
Philippians 1:29  
Colossians 3:12  
1 Thessalonians 1:4-5  
1 Thessalonians 5:9  
2 Thessalonians 2:13-14  
Titus 1:1

1 Peter 1:1-2  
1 Peter 2:8-9  
Revelation 17:14  
Revelation 13:8; 17:8

C. Biblical teaching

- i. Predestination is part of the divine plan of salvation
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ii. God's choice of the elect is not based on in anything in us
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- iii. Predestination is not unjust

iv. Election does not violate free will

v. Predestination is not double

vi. Election does not contradict God's love

D. Practical applications

i. Humility

“One week –night, when I was sitting in the house of God. I was not thinking much about the preacher’s sermon, for I did not believe it. The thought struck me, How did you come to be a Christian? I sought the Lord. But how did you come to seek the Lord? The truth flashed across my mind in a moment—I should not have sought Him unless there had been some previous influence in my mind to make me seek Him. I prayed, thought I, but then I asked myself, How came I to pray? I was induced to pray by reading the Scriptures. How came I to read the Scriptures? I did read them, but what lead me to do so? Then, in a moment, I saw that God was at the bottom of it all, and that He was the Author of my faith, and so the whole doctrine of grace opened up to me, and from that doctrine I have not departed to this day, and I desire to make this my constant confession, “I ascribe my change wholly to God.” –Charles Spurgeon

ii. Comfort

“There is a desperate need in the world for a sense of being loved that only the truth about election can satisfy.” –John Piper

iii. Assurance

iv. Motivation for holiness

- v. Hope for effective evangelism

OTHER SHEEP I HAVE WHICH ARE NOT OF THIS FOLD;  
THEM ALSO I MUST BRING  
-David Livingstone's tombstone

- vi. Worship

"Why I am a Christian is due ultimately neither to the influence of my parents and teachers, nor to my own personal decision for Christ, but to the "Hound of Heaven." That is, it is due to Jesus Christ himself, who pursued me relentlessly even when I was running away from him in order to go my own way. And if it were not for the gracious pursuit of the Hound of Heaven I would today be on the scrapheap of wasted and discarded lives." –John Stott