

Where Predestination Ends Providence Begins

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I. The only thing God predestinated was that His children would be eternally saved

Rom 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 firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:30 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.

Eph 1:5 Having **predestinated** us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Eph 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:

II. Review— ‘Predestination: What It Is and What It Ain’t’

A. God knew that we would sin—but did not (and does not) predestinate us to sin

Jas 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

B. God knew death would happen—but blame death on sin—not on predestination

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Though not predestinated—there is a time to die—(in some general or exact sense)

Ecc 3:2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up *that which is* planted;

D. God’s providence (not predestination) presides over death

Isa 57:1 The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth *it* to heart: and merciful men *are* taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil *to come*.

E. Man’s behavior can sometimes ‘adjust’ his time of death

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Eph 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

Eph 6:3 **That** it may be well with thee, and **thou mayest live long on the earth.**

F. Be careful not to judge others—All ‘bad’ things are not punishments for sins

Job 1:8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job...

G. Be careful to judge yourself—Some ‘bad’ things can be chastisement for sins

1Co 11:30 For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

1Co 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

1Co 11:32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

H. ‘All things’ may not be ‘all’ things—But ‘these things’ are not the ‘only’ things

Rom 8:28 And we know that **all things** work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Rom 8:30 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.

Rom 8:31 What shall we then say to **these things**?

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Rom 8:37 Nay, in **all these things** we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

III. In God’s providence—All that appears to be ‘bad’—is not always—‘all bad’

A. In at least some situations—What is indeed ‘bad’—Does not turn out ‘all bad’

Gen 50:20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; **but God meant it unto good**, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive.

Act 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Act 4:26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

Act 4:27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

Act 4:28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

B. Our God is 'good' at bringing 'good' from what seems 'bad'

Deu 8:16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, **to do thee good** at thy latter end;

Jer 24:5 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans **for their good**.

Jer 24:6 For I will **set mine eyes upon them for good**, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull *them* down; and I will plant them, and not pluck *them* up.

Jer 24:7 And I will give them an heart to know me, that I *am* the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for **they shall return unto me with their whole heart**.

Psa 119:71 *It is good for me that I have been afflicted*; that I might learn thy statutes.

1Pe 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, **if need be**, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

1Pe 1:7 That the **trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, **might be found unto praise and honour and glory** at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1Pe 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with **joy unspeakable and full of glory**:

Jas 1:2 My brethren, **count it all joy** when ye fall into divers temptations;

Jas 1:3 Knowing *this*, that the **trying of your faith worketh patience**.

Jas 1:4 But let patience have *her* perfect work, **that ye may be perfect** and entire, wanting nothing.

2Co 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, **there was given to me a thorn in the flesh**, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, **lest I should be exalted** above measure.

2Co 12:8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

2Co 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for **my strength is made perfect in weakness**. Most gladly therefore will I rather **glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me**.

2Co 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for **when I am weak, then am I strong**.

IV. We may not know whether 'good' will come from 'bad'

—Or how 'good' can come from 'bad' —Or why 'bad' happens to 'good'

—But we know that God's providence takes 'good' care of His children

Gen 39:21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Exo 3:11 And Moses said unto God, Who *am* I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

Exo 3:12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee...

Isa 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine.

Isa 43:2 When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Isa 43:3 For I *am* the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour...

Dan 3:24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonied, and rose up in haste, *and* spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

Dan 3:25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Mat 28:20 ...lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Heb 13:5 ...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Joh 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

V. The Bible invites God's children to come to the 'good' God of 'good' providence

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Mat 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Mat 11:29 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.

Mat 11:30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Act 2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Act 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Act 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.