

“Is Any Part of Our Lives  
Predestined?”

# People Are Fascinated By This Subject For A Number Of Reasons:

- Religion in America is saturated with it
- It is comforting to believe in this chaotic world that we are part of a larger tapestry developed by a master weaver
- It is soothing to believe that we are victims of purposes and forces outside of our own ability to choose and act
- We long for an explanation of the whys and hows of the conditions and circumstances, problems and positions of our lives

# People Are Mistaken About This Subject

- If we can answer the matter by saying we were fated, destined, ordained, then the unexplainable becomes tolerable
  - The stars, the runes, the bones, fortune, fate were the answers of the ancients and pagans; Christians use predestination, a doctrine no more valid than “the stars are crossed”
- The short answer is this: God created man and made him a free moral agent; get used to it
  - The concept of predestination that includes your life predetermined and unchangeable is not Biblical; it is entirely denominational

# People Are Mistaken About This Subject

- In point of fact, when you are born there are only two things you are destined to do: die and be judged
  - Heb. 9:27 - “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment”

# People Are Mistaken About This Subject

- Everything else depends on the following:
  - Your choices, good or bad - Joshua 24:15
  - The choices of others, good or bad - Matt. 18:6
  - Time and chance (Includes randomness of the universe, genetics, accidents, coincidence)
    - Ecc. 9:11 - “I returned and saw under the sun that-  
The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all.”

# People Are Mistaken About This Subject

- The exception to this is God's providence and protection in response to prayers of His children; the answers are yes, no, and maybe later
- The wonder of this is that God is capable of taking into account human will and "time and chance" and using them to accomplish His will - Isa. 10:5-7

# We Are Saved Or Lost Based On Our Own Choices

- The Scriptures clearly teach that salvation is conditional, and that every person is able to meet those conditions
  - Rom. 10:13-14, 16-17, 21

# We Are Saved Or Lost Based On Our Own Choices

- God grants to each person the power to accept or reject salvation
  - Each person is able to choose to meet the conditions of salvation - Deut. 30:15-19
  - God promised blessings to Israel if they obeyed - Deut. 28:1-14
  - And promised curses if they disobeyed Him - Deut. 28:15-68
  - Then He urged them to choose life.
    - Choose God - Josh. 24:15; Ex. 32:26; 1Kings 18:21
    - Choose good - Heb. 11:24-25; Luke 10:42
- God reasons with men; He does not compel them against their will - Isa. 1:18-20
  - Some choose evil anyway - Matt. 23:37, 13:14-15; Rev. 22:17

# Each Person Has A Role In Determining His Own Destiny

- 1Peter 1:22 - “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth...”
- Rom. 6:13, 16-17 - “...do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God... 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey... 17 ...you obeyed from the heart...”
- 2Cor. 8:5 - “...they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.”

# Each Person Has A Role In Determining His Own Destiny

- Phil. 2:12 - "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"
- 1Tim. 4:16 - "...in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."
- Acts 2:40 - "Be saved from this perverse generation."
- 2Cor. 5:20 - "...we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."

# Each Person Has A Role In Determining His Own Destiny

- God shows no partiality
  - Rom. 2:6-11; Acts 10:34-35
- He blesses all with the same opportunities; what each man does with those opportunities is his loss or gain
  - Matt. 5:43-48

# “Is Any Part of My Life Pre-Determined?”

- God does not force people against their will to be good or bad, but He can foreknow what choices they will make.
  - Judas was already evil before He betrayed Jesus - John 12:6.
  - Pharaoh was evil before God hardened his heart - Ex. 8:15, 32, 9:12
- God did not make these men evil. He simply foreknew what choice they would make; then He used their choices accordingly.
- If foreknowing and prophesying a thing means that God decreed it must be so, such that men have no choice, then since the men sinned, it must be that God decreed them to commit sin. This violates His righteous character
  - James 1:13 - “Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.”

# “Is Any Part of My Life Pre-Determined?”

- Jesus' death was also foreknown and prophesied
  - Isa. 53; John 3:14; 12:27; Matthew 16:21
  - Nevertheless, Matt. 26:53 shows that Jesus had the power to stop it. He had a choice in spite of the fact the matter had been prophesied.
- God foreordained that Jesus would die
  - 1Peter 1:20; Acts 2:23, 4:28; Luke 22:22
  - This involved a sin committed by those who killed Him. If this means it was decreed so men had no choice, then again God decreed that men must commit sin

# “Is Any Part of My Life Pre-Determined?”

- Though God foreknew what some men did, that does not prove that He foreknows all the acts of all men
- God has power to foreknow all things, but at times He chooses not to exercise that power. His power to foreknow is based on His power to do all things. But He does not do everything He has power to do.
  - Gen. 11:5, 18:20-21, 22:12

# “Is Any Part of My Life Pre-Determined?”

- You will pass from this life and face the judgment, period.
- Apart from that, what happens to you depends on your choices, the choices of others, and “time and chance”