
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Does God predestinate some men to heaven and some to hell?**

There are many today who believe that God arbitrarily predestinates some people to heaven and some to hell. It does not matter how good a man may live, it is believed that if he is predestinated to hell, he cannot change the decree. Likewise, this theory says that if a man is predestinated to go to heaven, he cannot do anything so sinful so as to be cast out.

Is this true? Does God decide, before we are even born, that some of us are going to hell and there is nothing that can be done to change that? Does God decide before we are even born that some of us are going to heaven and nothing can be done to change that? Is it true that the actions of men play no part in determining their destiny, or is our destiny based, at least in part, on our actions?

SALVATION IS CONDITIONAL

My friend, the Bible teaches that salvation is conditional. It is conditioned on whether we submit to God's law, or whether we disobey His law and it is conditional all of our lives.

Romans 9:18

¹⁸ Therefore [God] has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

Some people believe that this passage is saying that God arbitrarily decides who shall receive His mercy. But notice:

- This passage does not mention **who** God has mercy on, and who He hardens.
- It does not mention **why** God has mercy on some, but hardens others.

The question we need to ask, then, is: Who does God have mercy on?

Exodus 20:5-6

⁵ ... I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Now, according to this, **who** receives mercy from God? "Those that fear God and keep His commandments!"

Why do these men receive mercy from God? Because they *"fear God and keep His commandments!"*

You can see, then, God does not arbitrarily decide who shall be saved in heaven and who shall be lost in hell. God does **not** predestinate anyone to heaven, or to hell. He presents His law to men and allows them the choice of obeying, or disobeying. He will force no one to submit to His will. The choice is ours to make and, based on that choice, we shall be saved, or lost.

Deuteronomy 30:19

¹⁹ "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore **choose** life, that both you and your descendants may live;

Joshua 24:15

¹⁵ "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, **choose** for yourselves this day whom you will serve, ... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Can you see that we have a choice to make? Can you see that our eternal destiny is based, at least in part, on our own choosing? My friend, if God predestinated some men to hell, that would mean God does not want all men saved. BUT:

1 Timothy 2:4

⁴ [God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Revelation 22:17

¹⁷ ... Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Could the Bible have truthfully said these things if God had predestinated some men to hell?

SALVATION CAN BE LOST

Now, we have shown that God does not predestinate anyone to hell. Any man that will submit to God's will and obey His commandments may be saved.

But on the other hand, neither does God predestinate anyone to heaven. The very thing a man must do to get saved he must do to stay saved. If it takes obedience to God's law to get saved, then it takes obedience to God's law to stay saved! Obedience does not become obsolete after a man once gets saved! The Bible no where teaches "once saved, always saved!" Salvation remains conditional throughout a man's entire life.

1 Corinthians 10:12

¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Galatians 5:4 (KJV)

⁴ ... [if] you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

You see, we can "fall from grace!"

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we affirm confidently that God does not predestinate anyone to hell. He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet 3:9).

But neither does He predestinate anyone to heaven, for all men that would be saved must choose for themselves to submit to the commandments of God.

What are the conditions which God has ordained for men to become citizens of the heavenly kingdom?

- a) You must believe in Jesus as the Son of God (Jn 3:16).

- b) You must repent of all sins (Lk 13:3).
- c) You must confess with your mouth that Jesus is the Son of God (Rom 10:10).
- d) You must be baptized in water "for the remission of sins."

John 3:5

⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Acts 2:38

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

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