

# PREVAILING LOVE

A STUDY ON DIVINE PREDESTINATION



# GOD'S PREVAILING IS LOVE

**Meditating** on Divine Predestination

AGAPEOLOGY

**Predestination** and **election** belong specifically to the category of **divine love**—a love that chooses on the basis of grace alone and sovereignly works to bring to full completion a reconciled, affectionate, and unfailing relationship with God through Christ and Him crucified.

THEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

For we know, brothers **loved** by God,  
that he has **chosen** you

1 Thessalonians 1:4

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you,  
brothers **beloved** by the Lord, because God **chose** you as  
the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the  
Spirit and belief in the truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

PREDESTINED BY AND FOR **LOVE**

But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which  
God **decreed** before the ages for our glory.

1 Corinthians 2:7

For truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had **predestined** to take place.

Acts 4:27–28

For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he **predestined** he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Romans 8:29–30

Making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been **predestined** according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will

Ephesians 1:9–11

Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he **predestined** us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:4–6

# MAN'S WILL

FREE OR FETTERED?

Can the Ethiopian change his skin  
or the leopard his spots?  
Then also you can do good  
who are accustomed to do evil.

Jeremiah 13:23

**GOD'S WILL**

PROVIDENTIALLY FORMATIVE

Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

Psalm 115:3

He **chose** us in him before the  
foundation of the world

**Ephesians 1:4**



I call heaven and earth to  
witness against you today,  
that I have set before you life  
and death, blessing and curse.

Therefore **choose** life  
**Deuteronomy 30:19**



The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

**Proverbs 16:9**

But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Genesis 50:19–20

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12–13

CHOSEN IN AND FOR CHRIST

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing  
in the heavenly places, even as **he chose us in him** before  
the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and  
blameless before him. In love he predestined us for  
adoption to himself as sons **through Jesus Christ**,  
according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his  
glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the  
Beloved. **In him** we have redemption through his blood,  
the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of  
his grace

Ephesians 1:3–7

# LEFT TO SELF

CLEARING MISCONCEPTIONS

# LEFT TO **SELF**

CLARIFYING GRACE AND JUSTICE

GOD'S PREVAILING IS LOVE

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Luke 19:10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this  
is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

Ephesians 2:8

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

Ephesians 2:4–5

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

Colossians 2:13

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect  
exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia,  
Asia, and Bithynia,

1 Peter 1:1

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born  
again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus  
Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1:3

But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of  
the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

Acts 15:11

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for  
all people,

Titus 2:11

who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

2 Timothy 1:9

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and  
are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption  
that is in Christ Jesus,

Romans 3:23–24

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:7

The sum of salvation in Christ is this:  
**God's prevailing love.**

Enlarge and humble our hearts to stand in greater awe of God and rejoice more intently in His love.