

Discipleship Class 15

Wednesday the 20th of August 2008

Bethesda Bible Church



Topic: Predestination Part 2

Facilitator: Pastor Thivha Lidzhade

Time 18h30

Predestination: (a Christian belief that everything has been decided and planned in advance by God. Oxford Dictionary)

(Romans 8:29-30 AMP) For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren. And those whom He thus foreordained, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified (acquitted, made righteous, putting them into right standing with Himself). And those whom He justified, He also glorified [raising them to a heavenly dignity and condition or state of being].

Our understanding of predestination must be established in the fact that whereas God has predestined us to be conformed to the image of His Son, it does not translate to the fact that He willingly destined others to be sinner and spent their life in condemnation regardless of what they do. This must be looked at with the background that God has no pleasure in the death of a sinner and He wants everybody to repent:

(1 Timothy 2:4 KJVR) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

And,

(Ezekiel 33:11 AMP) Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

With this, we then understand that God's predestination is based on His foreknowledge of how our lives would turn out to be. He has good plans for all of us though He can not dictate or force us how to live our lives. He never has evil thoughts for any of us and He is not capable of that.

(Jeremiah 29:11 AMP) For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.

His desire is that we work together with Him to fulfill His purpose for ourselves.

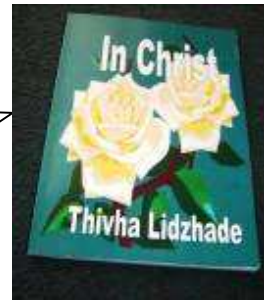
(Romans 8:28 AMP) We are assured and know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose.

The challenge now is to find out what His will for our lives is, so that we can align our will with His purpose and Master plans for our lives. That is why verses 26 and 27 of Romans 8 encourages us to cooperate with the Holy Spirit who is given to us as a guide so that in so doing we will find out the perfect will of God for our lives.

(Romans 8:26-27 AMP) So too the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance. And He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the [Holy] Spirit [what His intent is], because the Spirit intercedes and pleads [before God] in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's will. [Ps. 139:1, 2.]

To be continued.....

Only



Recommended reading:

Discipleship Notes 13 on how tithes were given in the past

Read the book, **In Christ** by **Thivha Lidzhade**

Available from Bethesda Bookshop

072 717 0660 thivha@gmail.com

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior and you would like to accept Him, pray this short prayer:

Heavenly Father, I heard Your Word.

I acknowledge that I am a sinner.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

I believe that He died for my sins.

I believe that He was made a curse so I could be the righteousness of God.

I confess with my mouth that He is Lord of my life.

Thank you Lord for making me Your child.

In Jesus' name. Amen!

If you prayed this prayer, YOU ARE NOW A CHILD OF GOD!!!

Contact us soon or join a word-based church near you!!!!