

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

A teaching bulletin produced and provided by FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 1 ♦ Issue 10 ♦ March 8, 2020

FIVE BIBLE PASSAGES WHICH DOOM PREDESTINATION

Larry R. Ping II

Calvinism and its tentacles have worked their way into numerous different denominations and religious groups. One of its major tenets is that of predestination.

John Calvin notoriously wrote "By predestination we mean the eternal decree of God, by which he determined with himself whatever he wished to happen with regard to every man. All are not created on equal terms, but some are preordained to eternal life, others to eternal damnation; and, accordingly, as each has been created for one or other of these ends, we say that he has been predestinated to life or to death" (Institutes, Book III, Chapter 21).

While predestination is certainly a Bible topic (Eph. 1:5; Eph. 1:11), Calvin's form of predestination, also known as unconditional election, is false. It deprives man of choice, and spawns incorrect ideas about God. These Bible passages doom this teaching.

1) I Tim. 2:3-4. *"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."* If God has predestined some to Hell, and that decision cannot be altered, how could God want all men to be saved?

2) II Pet. 3:9. *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* If God has predestined some to Hell, and that decree cannot be changed, how could God want all men to repent, and be saved?

3) Heb. 2:9. *"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."* If God has predestined some to Hell, and that ruling is fixed, why would Jesus need to taste death for every man?

4) Ezekiel 33:11. *"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"* If God has predestined some to Hell, and that verdict cannot be adjusted, then why would God express His grief at the death of the wicked? Further, if one's eternal fate is fixed, and cannot be amended, why would God encourage His people to turn and change their ways, and be saved?

5) Deut. 30:19. *"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."* If God has predestined some to Hell, and that dictate is permanent, why would God put forth such a monumental choice before His people? Why would He ever urge men to make such important choices, if Calvinistic predestination be true?

IF ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED, WHY...

Johnie Edwards (Bloomington, IN)

Notice what Sam Morris, a Baptist preacher, said in a tract entitled: "Do Christian's sins damn his soul?"

"We take the position that a Christian's sins, do not damn his soul. The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, or his attitude toward other people have nothing to do with the salvation of his soul... All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bibles he may read, all the churches he may belong to, all the services he may attend, all the sermons he may practice, all the debts' he may pay, all the ordinances he may observe, all the laws he may keep, all the benevolence acts he may perform will not make his soul one whit safer: All the sins he may commit from idolatry to murder will not make his soul in any more danger...the way a man lives has nothing whatsoever to do with the salvation of his soul...The way I live has nothing whatsoever to do with the salvation of my soul."

Now read what the Bible says: "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" (Gal 5:4). What a difference in what men say and what the word of God teaches! If once saved, always saved, then why...

1. Are We Warned Not to Fall? Paul warned the church at Corinth: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Cor. 10:12). Peter wrote: "... beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness" (2 Pet. 3:17). Why would a parent warn a child, not to fall down the stairs, if it were impossible for the child to fall down the stairs? The apostle to the Hebrews penned: "Take heed, brethren, lest there be any of you in departing from the living God" (Heb. 3:12)!

2. Are There Some Examples of Some Who Did Fall? Simon, the sorcerer "...himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done" (Ac. 8:13). According to Mark 16:16, he was saved from his past sins. Now notice his trying to buy the power of "laying on of the apostles' hands" (Ac. 8:18-19). Peter told him: "...Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter; for thy heart is not right in the sight of God" (Ac. 8:20-21)! Here is an example of one who did fall away.

Jude wrote of some who fell away: "I will put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not" (Jude 5). If a believer can become an unbeliever, he can fall away and be lost. Remember Hebrews 3:12? You might like to read about Hymenaeus and Philetus and what they did (2 Tim. 2:17-18).

3. Are We Told What to Do When One Falls Away?

When Simon fell away, he was told: "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou are in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity" (Ac. 8:22-23). John joined in by teaching: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I Jn. 1:9). We have proof-positive that one can fall.

** Thank you to brother Johnie Edwards for supplying this article for this week's issue of The Vincennes Voice. Brother Edwards regularly works with the Ellis Church of Christ.*

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
2720 Battery Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 672
Vincennes, IN 47591

Phone: 317.308.8288
Website: www.firstcitychurchofchrist.com
Email: firstcitychurchofchrist@gmail.com

MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY
Bible Study – 10:00 am
Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study – 7:00 pm