

FEBRUARY 9, 2020

TODAY: Morning Worship - 10:15 a.m.

Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Messages by PASTOR JIM BYRD

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(Webcasting live during listed service times)

WEDNESDAY: Mid-week Service - 7:00 p.m.

Message by PASTOR JIM BYRD

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"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness, but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God"
(1 Corinthians 1:23-24).

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CHRIST CRUCIFIED

Tune: "Amazing Grace" CM Words by Pastor Jim Byrd

The blood which Jesus shed for me,
When hanging on the tree;
Shall never lose its saving pow'r,
Through all eternity.

When Christ for us was crucified,
The law was satisfied;
And by that bloody Sacrifice,
Our souls are justified.

Upon the cross the Savior bled,
Our Lord and Cov'nant Head,
When hanging on that rugged tree,
He suffered in our stead.

What wondrous, condescending grace,
That Christ would take our place;
And fully put the sins away
Of all His chosen race.

Let all who love the Savior's name,
Who took our guilt and blame;
Rejoice, give thanks and praises sing,
Unto our Lord and King.

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PREDESTINATION AND PROVIDENCE

In old eternity, the Lord chose a people unto salvation, decreeing that those sons and daughters be made righteous through the obedience unto the death of His Son, Jesus Christ. In order to bring about this marvelous salvation, the sovereign Lord predestinated all that shall ever be and in providence He is carrying out His predetermined will. Predestination, of course, has to do with the people of God (see Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:5, 11), yet it necessarily includes the origin, existence, activity and goal of everything. What then is divine providence? It is simply God directing all things, with infinite precision, to the end He has determined in order to accomplish that which He ordained for His beloved, chosen and precious people. So let us understand that predestination has to do with the infinitely wise design and purpose of God, while providence has to do with His omnipotence and irresistible work in fulfilling that purpose. Of these two things you may be certain; where there is predestination (the decreed will of God) there will be providence, the divine activity which brings His will to pass. What the Lord has predestinated before time, providence accomplishes in time. Predestination, therefore, is the sovereign, eternal, unchanging and unchangeable purpose of the Trinity by which He devised, designed and ordained all that will ever come to pass in order to save His chosen people from their sins and bring them to stand before Him in the righteousness of Christ Jesus. The Lord will bring His saving purpose to pass and it will all be "to the praise of the glory of His grace" (Ephesians 1:6). Providence is God irresistibly executing all He has designed and ordained. Those who imagine God would create all things but not have a purpose for everything, charge Him with foolishness, lack of forethought and of being less intelligent than man. Who among us would ever begin any project without having some sort of purpose in mind? Those who think that God created all things, but that He cannot control what He has made nor direct them to the end that He has determined, slander His power and criticize His wisdom to bring about His own desires.

-Pastor Jim Byrd

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Instead of shrinking back in horror from the doctrine of predestination, the believer, when he sees this blessed truth as it is unfolded in the Word, discovers a ground for gratitude and thanksgiving such as nothing else affords, save the unspeakable gift of the Redeemer himself.

-A.W. Pink

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THE DOCTRINE OF PREDETERMINATION

When I consider the absolute independency of God, and the necessary total dependence of all created things on Him, their first Cause, I cannot help standing astonished at the pride of impotent, degenerate man, who is so prone to consider himself as a being possessed of sovereign freedom, and invested with a power of self-salvation, able, he imagines, to counteract the designs even of infinite wisdom and to defeat the agency of Omnipotence itself. "Ye shall be as gods," said the tempter to Eve in paradise; and "ye are as gods" says the same tempter to her apostate sons. One would be apt to think that a suggestion so demonstrably false and flattering, a suggestion the very reverse of what we feel to be our state, a suggestion alike contrary to Scripture and reason, to fact and experience, could ever meet with the smallest degree of credit. And yet, because it so exactly coincides with the natural haughtiness of the human heart, men not only admit, but even relish the deception, and fondly incline to believe that the father of lies does, in this instance at least, speak truth. The Scripture doctrine of predetermination lays the axe to the very root of this potent delusion. It assures us that all things are of God; that all our times and all events are in His hand.

--Augustus Toplady

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"Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." (Acts 20:26-27). I do not wish to say anything in self-commendation and praise; I will not be my own witness as to my faithfulness; but I appeal to you, I take you to witness this day, that (like Paul) I have not shunned to declare to you all the counsel of God. I have often come into this pulpit in great weakness, and I have far more often gone away in great sorrow, because I have not preached to you as earnestly as I desired. I confess to many errors and failings, and more especially to a lack of earnestness when engaged in prayer for your souls. But there is one charge which my conscience acquits me of and I think you will acquit me too, for I have not shunned to declare the whole counsel of God. If in anything I have erred, it has been an error of judgment; I may have been mistaken, but so far as I have learned the truth, I can say that no fear of public opinion, nor of private opinion, has ever turned me aside from what I hold to be the truth of my Lord and Master. I have preached to you the precious things of the gospel. I have endeavored to the utmost of my ability to preach grace in all its fulness. I know the preciousness of that in my own experience; God forbid that I should preach any other. If we are not saved by grace, we can never be saved at all. If from first to last the work of salvation is not in God's hands, none of us can ever see God's face with acceptance. I preach this doctrine, not from choice, but from absolute necessity, for if this doctrine is not true, then we are lost souls; your faith is in vain, our preaching is in vain, and we are still in our sins, and there we must continue until the end.

--C.H. Spurgeon