

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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1/19/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
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A Word to the Wise

There are multiple dimensions to salvation and sanctification, which is why seeking a unidimensional definition introduces doctrinal errors.

"predestined"

from proorizo - means to predetermine, to foreordain, to mark out, to appoint beforehand; refers to pre-established boundaries, i.e. before creation; predestination is part of God's divine decree

"Your purpose predestined"

predestination always carries with it the purpose of God; His will is intrinsically represented in every fact, every blessing, every grace gift (even suffering and discipline).

"granted"

from charizomai - [charis means grace]; in context in Php 1:29, it refers to the fact that suffering is a grace gift! It follows, then, that if you suffer (undeservedly), then you are actually being blessed out!

Suffering: Deserved or Undeserved?

- You lack discipline toward the Word
- You marry/date/court a jackass that wants little or nothing to do with Christ
- You spoil your kids and they become terrors
- You have persistent financial troubles, yet you cling to bad habits that cost money
- You suffer physically due to bad health choices

Self-Inflicted Wounds

If you are suffering due to past mistakes, God's grace is that you "feel" the weight of it so that He can teach you something. His grace is in delivering you from it spiritually, but He may not relieve you of the consequences.

Suffering and Grace

You'll never fully understand God's will if you refuse His conviction. You must confess the truth about yourself. If you lack that wisdom (e.g.: introspection), then

go directly to Him in prayer, and STAY HUMBLE!!! (Jas 1:5)

Sanctification and Confession

Confession is being honest with God, in the privacy of your own soul...not that He needs to be informed; rather, that YOU need to face the facts about yourself.

Suffering and Grace

Pray. Pray. Pray! If you lack the wisdom to understand the nature of your suffering, then PRAY! Even if you're mistaken for a time (we all are), remember the Spirit intercedes for you in prayer (Ro 8:26-27).

Php 1:29

For to you it has been granted [charizomai - [charis means grace]; refers to the fact that suffering is a grace gift; if you suffer (undeservedly), then you are actually being blessed out!] for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

Grace is illumined with confession and prayer.

1Pe 4:19

Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust [paratithemi - is a banking term that means to 'deposit for safe keeping'; refers to a complete surrender of one's soul to God, Who is faithful (1Co 1:9)] their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Grace is illumined with confession and prayer.

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Predestination

Every believer was made to be delivered! (Ro 8:29-30)

The Divine Decree

When the Word makes a statement about God's decree (eg: predestination of believers), it ("He" - He is the Word, remember) is speaking from His perspective, His "present tense", which is different than man's, naturally.

Perspective

Emphasis on predestination gets you thinking in absolute certainty about salvation and sanctification.

"the eternal purpose"

refers to the Church's supreme purpose of glorifying God; we members have been predestined to partake in that activity