

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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1/26/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
44

Predestination Prototype

Jesus Christ was predestined to suffer undeservedly (**Act 4:27-28**).

Predestined to Suffer

Jesus' suffering was a blessing to Him ("*who for the joy set before Him endured the Cross*" - **Heb 12:2**). We believers are called the same way, to suffer for Christ's sake (e.g.: for the Gospel)(*"For to you it has been granted [charizomai - suffering is a grace gift] for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake"* - **Php 1:29**).

Grace

You were PREDESTINED to suffer for Christ's sake!

Grace

You were PREDESTINED to prosper for Christ's sake, only the prosperity emphasized in the Bible is eternally weighted (**Pr 16:11; Jn 4:36-38; Ro 6:20-22; 1Ti 6:6-21; Rev 3:18-21**).

The True "Prosperity Gospel"

The false doctrine that God prospers with worldly riches as a reward for righteousness is really a slippery perversion of Truth. Prosperity is not measured in worldly riches; rather, eternal wealth. Besides, both unrighteous and righteous receive worldly prosperity.

Scale of Values

Parable of the 10 Minas

- Who originally owns the minas?
- What do the minas represent?
- What is the purpose of "doing business"?
- What is the nature of the rewards for His stewards?

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Evaluation Under God’s Scale of Values

Ask yourselves...exactly WHAT will be evaluated???...the fact that you amassed material wealth or that you amassed spiritual/eternal wealth (e.g.: shared the mind of Christ, evangelized, witnessed, etc.)? Which is the cause for reward by God? (1Co 3:12-14)

Authority Represents Responsibility

Position is merely a functional lever within an established organization; a link in the chain of command. Godly servants focus on responsibility; whereas, ungodly servants (if given the chance) focus on position.

“more shall be given”

the critical question is - more of what? If you think it’s worldly prosperity, you are sadly mistaken; “more” refers to grace on God’s pristine scale of values, not man’s.

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- What is the purpose of “doing business”? ← TEST FAITH (EVALUATION BASED ON HIS SCALE OF VALUES)
- **What is the nature of the rewards for His stewards? SHARED SERVICE WITH TLJC FOR THE GOSPEL**

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Pr 16:11

A just balance and scales belong to the LORD; All the weights of the bag are His concern.

Pr 16:11 [Amplified]

A just balance and [honest] scales are the Lord’s; all the weights of the bag are His concern [established by His eternal principles].

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Grace-Orientation

Is your purpose for working hard so that you can benefit, or others? *But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? (1Jn 3:17).*

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Grace Life In Christ

Living the Gospel reality (ala **Ro 1:16-17**) means living in eternal life, from the time you are saved on.