

## ] One Hundred Predestinated Sheep [

Ephesians 1:5 – 6

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~ Our Spiritual Safari took an enormous dose of extremely potent medicine in our last report. We're trying to cure our spiritual cancer once and for all by administering the Word of God to our lives; and this report is going to be round-two of spiritual chemotherapy. That which a man does for himself in this life dies with him; but that which a man does for other people lives on in eternity. So, as your physician's assistant to our Great Physician, Who heals us from all sin and unrighteousness, I am carrying out His orders dispensing the medication for you. Your responsibility, as a good patient, is to properly accept and consume the cure. That's what this so-called safari is all about: the Lord Jesus Christ — and the spiritual healing power of Scripture. This ministry is about nothing else — except the faithful teaching of the entire Word of God in sound doctrine to the entire world for the purpose of glorifying Christ. See, that's the only possible hope this sick, lost, and dying world has tonight of being healed. There is no other remedy available.

We are examining an extremely complicated medical chart concerning the body of believers in Ephesians; and we're not moving very fast, because we must proceed cautiously. This is report number five in Ephesians, and we're only at verse five. We're in the section of this epistle where we consider the body of Christ — the church. A diseased body requires much experience, ample time to examine, and patience to thoroughly diagnose the malady properly, correctly and completely — and, friends, the church body is literally almost *D-E-A-D* from all manner of spiritual disease today — make no mistake about that. To say otherwise is reckless, careless, and a misdiagnosis. To disagree with me is tantamount to malpractice.

The truly frightening aspect of all of that is that God the Father planned the church way back in eternities past. I wasn't around at that time to make suggestions, or tell God how this thing should be done — so, He just went and did it His way — and here He tells me *how* He did it. It's brutal; and God makes no apologies, friends. Take it or leave it — that's your problem. I

don't want to be unlovely but, frankly, God has commissioned me to tell you that He's a bit exhausted with the selfie-religion. This is the way it is, and it just happens to be God's universe – He runs it His way. You may all thank God now that He hasn't turned it over to me to run; because, if He did, I assure you we would do many things completely differently. Let's move on.

In our last report, we saw two of the three things God has completed in planning the church body: (1) He chose us — elected us — in Christ; and I am sure some of you found my presentation a bit different than modern expositor's teach. I am also sure some of you are not reading right now because that medicine didn't heal you – it killed you. Well, that's the real danger with surgery and anesthesiology – it sometimes kills. Tragic (2) God the Father made us acceptable in His Beloved Son. And the third point is, God the Father predestinated us for Himself, which will be our focus in the remainder of this brief report.

Men and women are not lost because they are not elected; they're lost because they are sinners who have rejected the gift of redemption Christ offers. That's the way *THEY* want it – not God; and they have chosen their lives accordingly. See, God is never going to violate our free will in order to substantiate His ordination of election and predestination. There is absolutely *no way* to refute that the lost man makes his own choice. We all choose to do good or evil — every day. Augustine brought this truth out in his doctrinal teaching that, if there wasn't free will to accept the grace of God, then there would be no way for God to save anyone. Moreover, if man didn't have free will, the world could not be fairly judged by God. So, by that, we can understand how God did the electing. Again, this is all done His way – not ours. If you aren't praying for wisdom, judgment, and discernment, then you'll never have them.

Paul said, “.... *there is no unrighteousness with God.*” If you somehow perceive there is unrighteousness with God, you'll do well to change your thinking to prevent furthering your error. God said He will have mercy on whom He will have mercy and compassion on whom He will have compassion. That's *His* choice, my beloved. Now, I get the impression that our modern-day evangelistic campaigns perform on the premise that

coming forward to the altar is saving people. Well, God isn't saving people because they came forward and made some sort of self-declaration of their goodness. No, God isn't saving anyone because they joined a church or because we're good little Sunday school boys and girls; because I'm not any of that — just ask my pastor, or my Sunday school classmates — but I am saved! God is saving people because God Himself extends His mercy that endureth forever — and no other reason.

When you dear readers meet me in Heaven, I won't be there because I was a great Bible teacher or superbly articulate writer — because, I may be those things, but I'm not a good person. None of you know me like I know myself. If you did know me like I know myself, you wouldn't read a word I write. However, if I knew you like you know yourself, I wouldn't waste my fine talent and superior intellect writing free Bible lessons all day long that very few people even bother to avail themselves of. On that basis, we can stay together, I trust — because we just happen to be in the same ocean in the same boat. We're *ALL* lost sinners; only some of us have been saved by the election, foreknowledge, predestination, and by the mercy and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Until you and I are willing to bow down and humble ourselves before the Lord God Almighty, and allow Him to make us somebody in Christ, then we are simply never going to get saved. Your best resolutions must be totally waived — and your highest ambitions dashed — you never need think you'll be saved — until you first discover you're lost. That's our condition, friends — *L-O-S-T*. We can bow down and thank God He is willing to even speak to us, extend mercy, and offer life over death. Or we can *continue* being dead in trespasses and sins; we have a free will — and we will all make that choice.

Most agnostics and so-called atheists usually tell me they cannot believe in God because they cannot force themselves intellectually to accept anything without “*evidence*.” Unfortunately, they don't have intellectual problems; because none of us are smart enough to even have intellectual problems. No, friends, the real problem is not the creation account, or Noah and the ark, and it isn't even Jonah and the fish, or a talking serpent. No, the reason they won't believe is because there is sin in their lives that the Bible

condemns, and they don't want to give that sin up. They love their sin, so they hate God – because that's the way that works, friends. There is literally *NO OTHER* reason for denying the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior other than that....

***5 ....in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,***

~ I know it's strange to find "love" and "predestinated" in the same sentence – but here it is. Most preachers have a hard time getting "love" and "predestination" in the same sermon — or even saying those two words on the same day! Predestination is a word that scares many Christians to death – but it's always said by God in love. "Predestination" only refers to the saved — never to the lost; and comes from a Greek word that means to "define," "set apart" or "to mark out." It also means "to horizon" – If you go to the ocean, you can see the horizon; and that's what we're talking about. God takes us to that place in the spirit through predestination.

"Predestination" and "election" are *NEVER* used in reference to the lost and unsaved person. No one is predestinated to be lost eternally. If you are lost, then it is because you have rejected the remedy God has provided. If a man has a disease, and he is laying there dying, but won't take the cure the doctor has prescribed then, when that man dies, he didn't die from the disease. No, friends, he died because he refused the cure. Of course, the cause of death man will ascribe to said death certificate will be the disease – but that's not accurate.

The Lord Jesus Christ said He started out with one hundred sheep, and He says He is coming to the other side with one hundred sheep. Further, Jesus was speaking of Himself when He said, *"for the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."* That's Matthew chapter eighteen verses eleven through fourteen, by the

way. So, I can just envision God counting His sheep one day, and God says, *"ninety-eight, ninety, nine .... Ninety-nine.... where is the Hunt kid?"* Then, some super-duper saint says to God. *".... ninety-nine is good enough, and who really cares about one little old sheep named Andrew anyways?"* Most people don't expect me to be in Heaven in the first place, of course. Well, I thank God He isn't going to just go on without me – no, He's coming out to find me, friends. How wonderful that really is.

Something else in verse five of Ephesians ties-in succinctly with Paul in Romans chapter eight verses twenty-seven through twenty-nine, *".... and he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."* Our spiritual cancer remedy is coming together perfectly now. It looks like we could have a one hundred percent remission rate at this point. That's predestination in a nutshell — in action — and I just happen to love to practice alongside the Great Physician because of all of that truth. I hope you'll continue the procedure with us....

***6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved ~***

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***John 17: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. 24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. 26 And I have***

*declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith  
thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them ~*

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