

Predestination & Free-will working together!

God chose us... and we respond!

I. God created us to be holy and to be like Him!

- **Genesis 1:26-28**
- This is what is expressed in Ephesians 1:4

II. When sin separated us from God, He **already** had a plan!

- *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” -Genesis 3:15*
- This is what is expressed in Ephesians 1:5

III. Who are the chosen?

- All of mankind is chosen by God... not the angels, nor any other creation.
- *For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that **one died for all, and therefore all died.** -2 Corinthians 5:14*
- *I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases **God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.** For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man **Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.** This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. -1 Timothy 2:1-6*

IV. We can **NOT** earn salvation!

- *I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!” -Galatians 2:21*

V. We respond to God’s choosing of us!

- John 3:16-21
- Consider this... if we (the church) are the “Bride of Christ,” (Ephesians 5:32), a groom chooses his bride and the bride responds to being chosen.

VI. Our sincere response is to receive Christ as Savior & live Godly lives.

- *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. -Romans 10:9-10*
- *Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. -2 Peter 1:10-11 (NIV)*
- *So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away.*

Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. -2 Peter 1:10-11 (NLT)

VII. God NEVER intended for PEOPLE to spend eternity in hell!

- Although hell is real and ultimately the eternal place of torment for those who do not receive Christ as Savior, it was not created as a place to send "bad people."
- *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. -Matthew 25:41*