



21 November 2021

### GOLDEN CHAIN of GRACE (PART 2)

Acts 15:18; Romans 8:28-30

Isaiah 46:5-18; Ephesians 1:1-14

**Do You Know God?** The very first two things that God revealed about Himself:

①

②

**Are You a Full Time Student of God?**

**Do You Fear God?**

- ★ God requires all men to fear Him. (Deuteronomy 10:12-14)
- ★ Unbelievers do not fear God. (Romans 3:18; Psalm 36:1)
- ★ Do you fear God?

**Do You Know Yourself?**

- ★ Are you a creature of God and completely dependent on HIM, your Creator, for everything?

**Do You Have the Holy Spirit in You?** (Romans 8:9, 14)

**Have You Diligently Made Your Election and Calling Certain?**

(2 Peter 1:10) What evidence did you use?

**Is Your Grace \_\_\_\_\_? Is Your Grace \_\_\_\_\_?**

**What Is Your Definition of “Grace”?**

**What Is Your Definition of “Amazing”?**

**When Did God “Grace” You?**

**Is God’s Grace WORKING in You to Grow as a Disciple and Obey His Commandments?**

**The GOLDEN CHAIN of Grace** (Romans 8:28-30)

- (v. 28) Do you love God? (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14)

- (vv. 29-30) THE GOLDEN (Amazing) CHAIN of God's Grace!

- ① **HE** foreknew . . .
- ② **HE** predestined . . .
- ③ **HE** called . . .
- ④ **HE** justified . . .
- ⑤ **HE** glorified . . .

# HE

## The "Beginning" of Grace

- In **eternity**, when there was ONLY God (meditate on this), God **decided** (desired) what would be and what would not be. (Isaiah 41:22, 26; 44:6-8; 43:9-12; 45:21; 46:9-10; 48:3-8; Acts 15:18)
- When did God know who would be saved and who would not be saved? OR when did God know who He would save and who He would not save?
- How did God know who would be saved and who would not be saved?
- (Romans 8:29; 1 Peter 1:2) By His *foreknowledge*. What is the basis of God's *foreknowledge* - His plan, purpose, counsel, will.
- God knows because He is ETERNAL and has purposed everything that will happen! Even His people's salvation.

## Because God Chose (Elected) He Predestined!

- God would make sure that whatever He planned would come to be.
- Because He chose He will make sure that His desires are satisfied.
- Whatever God predestines happens!! **MEDITATE**.
- Whatever God predestined "*already*" happened in eternity.
  - Acts 2:23; 4:28; 1 Peter 1:18-20
  - Read Isaiah 53 focused on the verb tenses.
- God has demonstrated that He predestines. See handout.
- Whatever God does He does for His glory and the good of His people.

## God's Plan/Purpose/Pleasure/Decree/Counsel/Will

- Psalm 2:7; 148:1-6; Romans 8:28-30; 9:11; Eph 1:5, 9, 11; 3:11; 2 Tim 1:9; Isaiah 14:24-27; Daniel 4:35; 1 Cor 1:1; Philip 2:13; Psalm 115:3; 135:6; Job 23:12; Isaiah 46:10-11; 33:11; Proverbs 12:19; 21:30; Acts 2:23; 4:28.
- ★ (Romans 8:28; Ephesians 3:11) A Christians are called according to His purpose (will, counsel, plan, pleasure). God calls to fulfill His eternal purpose. More on God's Calling Grace next week. (Rom 9:11; 2 Tim 1:9)
- ★ God's foreknowledge is based on His Will.
- ★ God's PLAN (not man's will or actions) predestines all things.

## God's Plan/Purpose/Pleasure/Decree/Counsel/Will

- It is **ETERNAL**. (2 Timothy 1:9; Psalm 33:11; Isaiah 37:26; 46:9-10; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Matthew 25:34; 1 Peter 1:20; Jeremiah 31:3; Acts 15:18; Psalm 139:16; Titus 1:1-2)

- It is **UNCHANGABLE**. (James 1:17; Isaiah 14:24-27; 46:10-11; Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6)
- It is **WISE**. Psalm 104:24; Romans 11:33; 16:27; Colossians 2:2-3; Jude 25.
- It is **FREE**. Isaiah 40:13-14; Romans 11:34. God is not surprised! God's plan comes from within Himself – not outside Him.
- It is **ABSOLUTE and UNCONDITIONAL**. What God has planned WILL happen! By the **command** of God. (Isaiah 46:10; Ephesians 1:11; Lamentation 3:37-38)
- It includes the **FUTURE ACTS of MEN**. Daniel 2:28; John 6:64; Matthew 20:18, 19; Luke 22:10-13; 1 Peter 1:20.
- It includes **“chance happenings.”** There is no such thing as “chance” in God plan. (Prov 16:33; Jonah 1:7; Job 36:32; 1 Kings 22:28, 34; Job 5:6; Mark 14:30; Gen 37:28 with 45:5; 1 Sam 9:15, 16 and 9:5-10; John 19:23-24 with Psalm 22:18)
- It includes **FIXED events**. (Luke 22:22; John 8:20; Matthew 24:36; Genesis 41:32; Habakkuk 2:3; Isaiah 14:24-27; Luke 21:24; Job 14:5; 2 Samuel 12:14 with 12:15, 19; Jeremiah 27:7)
- It includes the **SINFUL acts of men**. (Genesis 50:20; Isaiah 45:7; Amos 3:6, 18; Matthew 21:42; 2 Samuel 12:11 with 16:20-22; 1 Peter 1:20; Acts 2:23; 4:28)
- It includes **BIG and MINUTE details**. (Matthew 10:29-30; Luke 12:6-7; Psalm 139:16; 147:4; Isaiah 40:26)

## Responsibility and Accountability

- But pastor, what you teach/preach makes men puppets!
- Men are not puppets they are creatures! A creature is completely dependent on His Creator! (Job 12:10; Acts 17:25-28; Daniel 5:23; Proverbs 20:24; Jeremiah 10:23; Zechariah 12:1; Psalm 33:15; Isaiah 64:8; James 4:13-16)
- Men are born sinners in absolute bondage to sin, the world, and Satan. (Ephesians 2:1-3)
- No one is righteous, no one understands, no one seeks after God, no one does good. (Romans 3:10-18) Without God grace no one can do anything good.
- (Deuteronomy 29:29) God has revealed:
  - ① He is **SOVEREIGN OVER everything!** (Lamentations 3:36-37)
  - ② Man is responsible/accountable to Him. (Hebrews 4:13)
- Definition of “Responsibility” - “expected or obliged to account for something to someone; accountable”
- Responsibility is giving an account to a higher authority.
- Man is accountable/responsible because he is a creature.
- Man is accountable/responsible because God is Lord over him and owns him.
- Man is accountable/responsible because God is the Law-Giver.
- Man is accountable/responsible because God is the Judge.

• False teachings:

- ① If man is responsible/accountable to God he must be free.
  - ✗ Scripture shows that man is born into the world a slave to sin, the world, and his/her own lusts/desires. (Ephesians 2:1-3)
  - ✓ For this reason, God sent His Son into the world to set His people free!!!! Free from the power, penalty, pleasure, and presence of sin. (John 8:34-36)
- ② If man has no ability to obey then he cannot be held accountable.
  - ✗ Then all unbelievers are not responsible!!! (Romans 8:7)

## Specific Predestination (Romans 8:29)

- Again, whatever God predestines happens!
- **GOD's PROVIDENCE:** "God's **constant care** for and His **absolute rule over** all His creation, **directing all** things to their **appointed** end for His own glory and for the good of **His** people."
- Here in the Golden Chain of Grace God makes it clear that EVERYONE who He chooses, every one of them with no exceptions, will be conformed to the image of His Son - because God has **predetermined** it to happen.
- Salvation from the very beginning (even before the beginning) to the very end is all the work of God! (Jonah 2:9; Psalm 3:8; 37:39-40; Revelation 7:10)
- (Matthew 7:13-14) Salvation **begins** at the narrow gate and **proceeds** along a difficult path (being conformed into the image of Christ) unto life.
- (Philippians 1:6) What God **starts HE** finishes. **MEDITATE!!**
- (2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:23; Colossians 3:10) ALL disciples (Christians) grow and grow continuously because God has predetermined that they will grow day by day! The verbs are PRESENT TENSE; PASSIVE VOICE! **GOD'S AMAZING & POWERFUL GRACE WORKS CONTINUOUSLY IN HIS PEOPLE.**
- Again, whatever God predestines happens!

## God's Business and Our Business

- God's business: ELECTION; PREDESTINATION; GRACE.
- Our business:
  - ① Continually REPENT of our daily sins.
  - ② Continually BELIEVE (TRUST) God.
  - ③ Use God's MEANS of GRACE:
    - ① LIVE on EVERY WORD. (Luke 4:4)
    - ② HIS BODY (the Church) (Ephesians 4:1-16)
    - ③ LABOR FERVENTLY in PRAYER (Colossians 4:12)

## God Saves by GRACE and GRACE ALONE!

(Ephesians 2:8-10)