

Synopsis of the Doctrine of Election - I. Introduction

Reconciliation occurs only after the sinner agrees with God that he is incapable of solving his own sin problem and therefore must look to God for a solution. This mental-attitude adjustment is called in Scripture repentance (*metanoeo*), “*a change of mind*”, specifically toward Christ as Savior.

Once the mind is changed about Christ, reconciliation occurs. However, punishment for sin must be executed by the Justice of God. This punishment, characterized by the word “*chastisement*” (*MŪSAR*), is the judgment of our sins in Christ and “by His wounds, we are healed.”

At the moment of reconciliation, the believer is elected by God for special function in the Church Age. And as we have discovered, the omniscience of God knew of each sinner's decision to believe in Christ and thus constructed a perfect plan to accommodate him.

This perfect plan includes certain divine operating assets which qualify the believer to pursue God's plan, to execute the Christian way of life, and to receive rewards and blessings. Election guarantees that every believer has equal privilege and equal opportunity to achieve these objectives. The equal privilege of election is the fact that every believer is his own priest.

Synopsis of the Doctrine of Election - II. The Royal Priesthood of the Believer

A priest is a man who represents man before God. According to the Scripture, one of the mystery doctrines of the New Testament is the fact that every person who believes in Christ is appointed as his own priest.

1 Peter 2:9 - You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, in order that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

As a royal priest, God holds you responsible for your thoughts, decisions, and actions. You also have a direct line to God with no requirement for any intermediary.

The priest may represent himself before God in confessional prayer which we call rebound. As a priest, he is granted the assets required for spiritual growth, namely, the grace apparatus for perception. The priest develops his own inventory of doctrinal ideas so that eventually he becomes an independent thinker with no need for counseling. He is capable of living his own life before the Lord by taking responsibility for his own decisions.

In the Church Age, the Scripture clearly indicates that there is no longer any specialized priesthood. The believer is his own priest. There are no litanies, no sacrifices, no feast days, and only one ritual--the Eucharist--in the Church Age. Thus, any organization which has an organized priesthood constructed in an hierarchical system of authority which professes to represent its parishioners before God is not only anti-biblical but ignores the equal privilege of the believer under election to represent himself before God.

Synopsis of the Doctrine of Election - III. The Divine Provision to the Believer

God guarantees every believer under election equal support in the field of logistics. God is not going to permit His elect to remain in a hostile environment controlled by Satan without some guarantee of logistics.

All believers, winners and losers, are guaranteed by God Himself all they needs for both life an godliness while they remain in this life. Therefore, under election, every believer has equal opportunity to advance within the plan of God without ever being able to complain that he was deprived of his necessities.

The righteousness of God requires that the righteous be sustained and justice finds a way to accommodate that principle. It is completely logical that if you are to complete the plan of God for your life on this earth, you must be kept alive. The equal opportunity of election guarantees that you will be supplied with every logistical need.

Peter 1:3 - His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the *epignosis* knowledge of Him who called us [**Gospel Hearing**] to His own glory and virtue.

Synopsis of the Doctrine of Predestination - I. Introduction

Whereas election places the believer into the plan of God, predestination provides the necessary assets to fulfill that plan.

If we are each left in this life following salvation and our presence here is to represent ourselves before God, then it follows that God has a purpose for our lives. That purpose is bound up in a plan and that plan is designed to resolve the Angelic Conflict in favor of God.

The believer must demonstrate to the fallen angels that he will follow God and obey His mandates, not in some attempt to gain God's favor in hopes of earning eternal life, but willingly, motivated by personal love for God who has guaranteed him everlasting life through faith in Christ.

In order for man to execute this plan he must be provided with equal privilege and opportunity to do so. This equality guarantees the assets necessary to meet this objective. We have classified these as Top and Bottom Circle Assets. But more precisely, they are the equal privileges and equal opportunities of predestination.