

GREAT BIBLICAL DOCTRINES (Predestination & God's Covenants)**INTRODUCTION.**

- A. Last week's lesson was about how all of the great Bible doctrines point toward mankind regarding the Paradise lost.
- B. Election is God's choice. Here is a brief review:
 - 1. Election is not to damnation or condemnation (Rom. 3:21-26; 9:9-11).
 - 2. God's choice was that all who desire to be saved will be saved in His Son (Eph. 1:3,4).
 - 3. Election is not man centered, but according to grace (Rom. 8:28-30).
 - 4. We can know how we are "elected." It is not a dramatic or emotional personal experience (Eph. 1:13-14; 2:8-9).
 - 5. Election is the outworking or execution of the purpose of God (Rom. 9:11; Eph. 3:8-12).
 - 6. Our election took place before time and creation in God's mind (2Th. 2:13-14).

I. PREDESTINATION.

- A. Unfortunately, the doctrine of predestination as taught by Augustine and Calvin, has discouraged many people from any serious consideration of X and the Bible.
- B. The doctrines of predestination and election go together.
- C. Notice how God had a predetermined plan and that plan is realized in X. He is the chosen One, by whom we can have salvation (Eph. 1:3-7).
- D. In the above text two things are necessary for sonship:
 - 1. The plan of God devised in eternity (Eph. 1:4; 2Tim. 1:9).
 - 2. The redemptive death of JC on the cross (Eph. 1:7).
- E. Because the plan was developed before mankind was created it is unalterable, and should give assurance to all that salvation is open for everyone who will accept Christ (Rom. 9:9-11; Ac. 4:12).
- F. People are not predestined, the plan is! Mankind is free to respond or reject the predetermined plan of salvation in X.

II. PARTS OF A COVENANT.

- A. Ancient man-made agreements and contracts existed more than 2500 years before the time of X.
Two parties in a covenant:
 - 1. The OVERLORD--a ruler, provider, boss, or commander.
 - 2. The VASSAL--a subordinate, servant, subject or slave.
- B. These contracts or COVENANTS have six general parts:
 - 1. Preamble--states identity of the overlord.
 - 2. Prologue--the history of overlord's aid to the vassal.
 - 3. Stipulations--what is expected of the vassal.
 - 4. Deposit--the token or reading of the covenant.
 - 5. Witnesses--list of those affirming the covenant.
 - 6. Blessing & Curses--for covenant keeping and breaking.

III. GOD'S COVENANTS.

- A. The Noahic Covenant (Gen. 9:8-13):
 - 1. The Preamble... God originates the contract (9:8).
 - 2. The Prologue... God has delivered them from the great flood.
 - 3. The Stipulations... what is expected is of God (9:11).
 - 4. The Deposit... the rainbow in the sky (9:12,13).
 - 5. The Witnesses... Noah's family and all creatures (9:10,17).
 - 6. The Blessing.& Curses... none listed.

- B. The Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 17:1-14):
 1. The Preamble... God originates the contract (17:7).
 2. The Prologue... God will greatly multiply them (17:1b,2,6).
 3. The Stipulations... walk before God, blameless (17:1b).
 4. The Deposit... circumcision (17:10-11).
 5. The Witnesses... Abraham and his descendants (17:7,8).
 6. The Blessing & Curses... the uncircumcised will be cut off from their people (17:14).
- C. The Mosaic Covenant was between God and Israel:
 1. The Preamble... "I am the Lord your God..." (Ex. 20:2).
 2. The Prologue... "...who-brought you out of the land of Egypt" (Ex. 20:2).
 3. The Stipulations... "You shall have no other gods before Me" and continuing through Ex. 24 (Ex. 20:3).
 4. The Deposit... two stone tablets containing the Decalogue (Ex. 31:18).
 5. The Witnesses... all the people of Israel and God.
 6. The Blessing & Curses... twelve distinct curses were pronounced (Deut. 27,28).
- D. The New Covenant is between God and the church through X (Heb. 8:6-13):
 1. The Preamble... God, who has loved us while we were sinners (Rom.5:8).
 2. The Prologue... God has given X who is the mediator of the new covenant (Heb. 9:13-15).
 3. The Stipulations... Enter by the blood of Jesus (Heb. 10:19-25).
 4. The Deposit... Baptism into X (Col. 2:11,12).
 5. The Witnesses... The apostles (Acts 2:22-24,32; 13:28-31).
 6. The Blessing & Curses... Blessings in Heb. 10:35-39 and curses in Heb. 10:26-31.

SUMMARY.

- A. In each case the covenant has an overlord (God, the Father) and a vassal (humans). The humans must accept the terms of the covenant to receive the blessings of the covenant. If the humans do not keep the covenant, then they endure the curses specified by the covenant.
- B. We, as Xians, live under the better covenant (Heb. 8:6).
- C. Obeying the plan of salvation puts one in a covenant relationship with God.
- D. The next lesson is on "Atonement" and "Redemption."