1Thess #39

Uneducated Believers never understand the Divine Decree or the plan of God.

As we open today we will take a look at the doctrines of election and predestination, especially in relation to the doctrine of Lapsarianism.

Which are very closely interlinked within theology.

In fact, what you believe in relation to the core decrees of Lapsarian Theology will mold what you believe about election and predestination.

Without a full concept of God’s divine attributes, HIS divine justice system most people will struggle to stand on solid ground for that which they claim to believe.

God’s essence means all the personality traits of the Triune God. Two of the most important in this study are omniscience and the sovereignty of God.

/Election is the expression of the sovereignty of God who wills the highest and best for every Church Age Bel; therefore, equality at the moment of salvation is mandatory. All Bels are endowed with the same escrow gifts and privileges. Yet GOD has already decreed free will, first and foremost, therefore equality does not exist beyond the salvation gate.\

Equal privilege and equal opportunity to execute the plan of God for any dispensation is given to every Bel who comes into faith alone in Christ alone.

Cain and Abel were given equal privilege and equal opportunity yet that turned out the first murder in human history.

All Bels under whatever dispensation they are born, cross the salvation gate with the same power and privileges.

/Within the Church Age we are given an abundant set of escrow blessings, our dispensation is given a great deal more then all others before us. Equal privilege is the royal priesthood, ambassadorship, adaption into Royalty and becoming the bride of Christ. Our equal opportunity is logistical grace support and blessings. Election is the grace gift from eternity past from God the Father for those who would believe in Christ.\

Because we took our free will and made a positive choice for the justice system of God, our Father in heaven from HIS overriding will lavished upon us grace gifts, spiritual powers and privileges that stagger the imagination.

The justice system of God deemed the standard of faith alone in the one true righteous one Jesus Christ, was the satisfactory repentance. That faith put us into a unique union with Christ which guaranteed are standing in heaven.

 Turn to Ephesians chapter one RF.

Our simply act of faith in TLJC, is by no means a standard of payment or release of debt – it was the person and work of Christ who was brutalized not only physically but the spiritual death upon that cross that paid any and all debt.

Our moment of recognizing we our sinners in need of a saviour and that Jesus Christ was the only way - paid nothing related to the OSN.

God the Father’s supernatural power allowed the escrow blessings and privileges to be abundant after HIS justice system deemed, that the impeccability of Christ was more than enough for the sins of the whole world.

There is no merit in agreeing with perfect righteousness.

 REPEAT

All other grace gifts and privileges beyond having heaven’s gate open to us was God the Father overflowing an abundance of escrow blessing upon us.

Because of this supernatural union with Christ, we are able to receive unbelievable power and blessings.

/Predestination is the grace provision of the sovereignty of God for every Church Age Bel. Through His grace policy the sovereignty of God provides everything necessary to sustain all CA Bels. (invisible assets- escrow blessings and 40 grace gifts) All designed for blessing, protection and growth in this temporal warfare. The level of maturity determines how much of these grace provisions flow into your life.\

In the dispensation of the Church Age every Bel under predestination has equal privilege and equal opportunity to execute the pre-designed plan of God. Equal privilege begins at salvation with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and subsequent positional sanctification.

All Bels at salvation receive the exact same invisible assets and problem- solving devices. Equal opportunity is the divine initiative of grace related to your portfolio of invisible assets.

God will not force you to grow because that would go against HIS first decree for mankind – free will. REPEAT

In Ephesians chapter one, the Apostle Paul is teaching principles related to SM, this letter was designed for all of Paul’s churches.

It was considered a circular letter that was designed to reach out to all early churches in relation to growing and moving forward in God’s plan.

/Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

Notice the humanity and deity of Christ is spoken in relation to God the Father’s grace blessings. It is through the unique God-man Jesus Christ that all of God’s (Father) plans come into fruition.\

God’s desire was to elect and predestine every human being to receive grace blessings in abundance but the only entrance into the grace plan is through TLJC.

Notice the term IN CHRIST – pointing us to positional truth.

HIS work on the cross and victorious resurrection, ascension and session guaranteed every human being was ensured the abundance of blessings.

Again, the issue of free will has to be addressed first.

Your free will matters!

Grace blessing preexisted all Believers.

The blessing came first, therefore you had nothing to do with the blessing, you were just there; it preexisted you. Part of the Divine Decree included all your escrow and grace blessings set aside in eternity past.

God’s grace means you cannot earn or deserve what HE does for you! So, all human beings have grace blessings and an escrow account awaiting them …yet many will never receive all of it or any of it, if they remain Unbels.

/[Eph 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/4/s_1098004) just as **He chose**(*eklegomai)***us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Before anything related to the human race was created, before the earth was formed as we know it, God established HIS Divine Decree.\

ECK-LEG-OH-MY – chosen or set apart from something else.

From the viewpoint of that Divine Decree, GOD knew who would respond to HIS precious SON Jesus Christ.

Now… knowing the doctrine of Lapsarianism, as you have recently been taught – also noting the doctrine of Unlimited Atonement, you realize everyone is offered salvation.

You have to take into account GOD knew who would take the gift of free will and apply it to their life in a positive fashion. And those who ultimately reject TLJC.

 REPEAT

Christ was elected first in eternity past to be the only one capable of all the callings fulfilled in God’s plan. TLJC was able to pass through the justice system of God which entitles HIM to be the unique ONE of the universe, in relation to the OSN, salvation and the grace plan.

/Isa 42:1 “Behold, **My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one** *in whom* My soul delights. I have put **My Spirit upon Him;** He will **bring forth justice** to the nations.

Jesus Christ was the only one able to withstand the Justice System of GOD and fulfill every prophecy because HE is pure righteousness! \

Everything is Christ-dependent. Your election is related to your union with TLJC.

/[Eph 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/5/s_1098005) **He predestined us to adoption**as sons *and daughters* through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Predestination speaks to a predetermined plan from eternity past. The aorist tense, points to the past completion of an unlimited amount! \

If you understand what the Divine Decree covers and God’s divine justice system, along with understanding HIS essence (sovereignty & omniscience).

It is not difficult to understand all the human race has always been eligible and elected for GOD’s highest and best.

Those who go to the lake of fire have refused that which GOD already did for them in eternity past.

We know Christ died for the sins of the WHOLE WORLD – there are no excuses after that!

/Election is the expression of the sovereign will of God in eternity past; predestination is the provision of the sovereign will of God for you so that you might execute the plan of God. No Unbel can find their predestination without election first. Election and Predestination have to go in precise order and operate in unison.\

Predestination is not for the Unbel.

It is actually a true statement to say that all human beings are elected by GOD - yet only Bels fulfill that election which leads to predestination.

[Eph 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/6/s_1098006) to the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He favored us in the Beloved.

/[Eph 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/7/s_1098007) **In Him we have redemption** through His blood, the forgiveness of our wrongdoings, according to **the riches of His grace**

Everything is Christ dependent! Present tense- redemption is always (has always been) available to all in Christ.\

Because Christ fulfilled the judicial process above and beyond what was needed, God the Father was able to abundantly lavish blessings, rewards and spiritual power on us!

Now keep in mind, the bulk of this teaching was the Apostle Paul speaking to Bels who were advancing in the plan of God.

All of these blessings or rewards are a result of those who grow up spiritually to receive that which GOD has already given them in eternity past.

/[Eph 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/8/s_1098008) which **He lavished on us**. In all wisdom and insight 9 He madeknown to us the mystery of His will, **according to His good pleasure which He set forth in Him,**

Omniscience anticipates human volition but never coerces it. God will not force the Unbel to step up to their election, nor will He force the apathetic Bel to move toward maturity.\

God decreed to provide a portfolio of invisible assets for every Bel which includes depositing in escrow greater blessings for time and eternity for every Believer.

One of those assets is a spiritual I.Q., which is totally different from your human I.Q.

/In eternity past, God the Father as part of the Divine Decree deposited into escrow greater blessings for every Church Age Bel. Gifts, blessings and rewards as well as crowns (authority) were already laid aside for you in eternity past. As mentioned in scriptures such as Eph 1:3, 1Pet 1:3-4. The Divine Decree takes into account all actions, reactions and end results of negative or positive decisions for all humanity.\

The first thing that God ever did for us in relation to the means of glorifying Him, was to establish escrow blessings.

That is why you often hear a pastor say when God can bless you it glorifies HIM.

/1Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **according to His great mercy** has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 **to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable**, undefiled, and will not fade away, **reserved in heaven for you**,\

We will close today with some important principles related to the doctrine of the Divine Decree more specifically, the Doctrine of Lapsarianism.

/God selected every human being ever born to be eligible for election. Selection speaks to the process of child birth in which God creates a soul life and imputes that to a fetus at birth. Election relates to regeneration (second birth, spiritual). In election, God imputes eternal life to the human spirit at the moment of salvation through faith alone in Christ alone.\

While God knew simultaneously all the history and knowledge about everyone ever born in eternity past, He never hinders or manipulates the free will of anyone in the human race.

This is why every person must take the responsibility for his or her own decisions, good or bad.

 REPEAT

The sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist in human history by the divine decree.

/While God has a right to do with His creatures as He pleases, God is not arbitrary, irrational or incompetent. God cannot lie or operate in unjust or unrighteous standards (HIS, not ours). God cannot sin or affiliate in any fashion with evil. God resolved everything in eternity past and HE did so with the filter of HIS Divine Justice System. This was then fed into HIS Divine Decree which factored in everything and came to the perfect plan of God for human history.\

Knowing all this – we can conclude that God is not unfair to any member of the human race; such a thought is blasphemous and unthinkable. God has not operated from, nor does HE need emotions. Emotions as we know them, never touched the Justice System or divine decree of GOD.

Emotions were not part of the equation.

/The Divine Decree completed a perfect chain of events all leading through a complex series of cause and effect, problem and solution, dependent upon each tiny detail to move to the next link. The chain, we can only view from the fall in the garden. Never once went astray or stepped outside of the Divine Decree and mandates by God from eternity past. Sins, failure and angelic rebellion never once broke the chain or even put a mild kink in the Divine Decree of God’s perfect plan.\

Our finite minds can only view the chain of the Divine decree from what we know of our Bible, starting with the fall in the garden.

Mankind’s feeble attempt to ridicule or question God or mankind’s critical scrutiny of God’s plan means absolutely nothing. Emotional responses and verbal assaults hold no strength against the chain of events GOD began in eternity past.

Accurate theology or even wrong theology, hold no power in this divine chain of the Divine Decree - God’s plan will come to fruition whether we figure it out or not!

Because of God’s sovereignty there is nothing and no one – angelic or human that can interfere with God’s plan.

The Believer minus BD or any biblical facts can only blaspheme God’s plan, God’s will, and purpose for their life. It is inevitable that the Unbeliever is going to do so, it just sad when the Bel does the same.

This means bad ideology or emotions becomes the substitute for BD in this blasphemy of being critical of God;

/Rom 9:19 “Therefore you will say to me, `Why does He still find fault? For who has opposed His will?’”

The arrogance and lack of understanding does not interfere with God’s plan, only with how we will be walking inside or outside HIS divine will.\

2Cor 13:8 For we cannot do anything against the truth, but *only* for the truth.