

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

HISTORICAL PREDESTINARIAN
For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS
By
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***“We love him, because he first loved us”
(I John 4:19)***

The above-referenced scripture is one of the most profound blessings to the elect child of God. It is a great and wondrous statement as to why and how we have been enabled to love the God of the Holy Writ.

This scripture is the springboard I will attempt to use to prove that the God of the Bible is the FIRST CAUSE of ALL things which come to pass in respect to salvation’s wonderful work by free and sovereign grace.

First: As indicated, we COULD NOT love God unless he FIRST loved us. This is FIRST LOVE that has caused us to love God, and to reveal his human deity in the God-Man Christ Jesus, the only Saviour of sinners.

Per the Scriptures, the believer in Christ has been chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world to be the adopted heirs of divine grace. Now, for this to be true and correct, there had to be a sovereign design, determined by the Almighty God of the scriptures, for the human creature to become so alienated from the creator by a means which he could not accept. This means was accomplished by the radical disobedience of one named ADAM. A created creature by divine design to be the HEAD of the fallen human race. For if God had not determined Adam to disobey his divine command, there would be NO SIN for which God the Father had predestined his beloved Son to come as the ultimate redeemer, deity clothed in human mortal flesh likened unto the creature tempted in every way, yet WITHOUT sin.

If in fact, Jesus Christ was predestined before the foundation of the world to descend from his preexistent place in the glories of heaven to become the God/Man Christ, Immanuel, “God with us” to seek and save sinners, then Adams disobedience and the

curse of sin upon all mankind had to have occurred just as the scriptural record indicates.

Next: A look at other FIRST CAUSES which God alone has brought about in his sovereign display of his Almighty attributes. The operation of grace (unmerited favor) upon the elect, appointed, chosen, ordained, called and adopted, predestined heirs of divine love have been blessed with the following gifts which manifest the experience of salvations work:

FAITH: The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. A witness of the FRUIT of the Holy Spirit. What a wondrous vehicle God has given his elect children to enable them to “believe” upon Him of whom they have not seen. Yes, beloved the scripture states “for by grace are ye saved through faith and that (grace and faith) NOT of YOURSELVES, for it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man shall boast.” Man is FIRST given faith to believe that God is who he says he is, and the rewarder of them that diligently seek him.....What emulates from this saving faith and believing ability, is a manifestation of sin, the devastating curse upon ones heart, mind and soul, followed by a broken and contrite spirit within, as “Godly sorrow worketh repentance”.

REPENTANCE: The contrite Godly sorrow FIRST caused by God as one’s sinful, depraved behavior and nature is opened unto the heart, mind and soul of the child of grace. God alone GRANTS repentance, and GIVES it to whom He will (Acts 5:31 & 11:18). Furthermore, God is the FIRST CAUSE of repentance and the cause of one’s heart desiring to turn from a sin-dominated lifestyle.

NEW BIRTH: As one reads the third chapter of John’s gospel, it is evident that God is the FIRST CAUSE of the “new birth” as he speaks to Nicodemus regarding that which is born from above. This mysterious operation of the new birth: “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whether it goeth: So is EVERYONE who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)

Man cannot prompt nor cause this new birth; it is a miracle of God alone. To hear the modern evangelical plea and the Arminian “invitation,” one would think that God has merely made salvation AVAILABLE and given mankind an OPPORTUNITY to choose or reject this divine salvation of sins forgiven and life eternal. What a sham gospel! What a man-glorifying and boastful religious message of non-scriptural lies.

When God, the Almighty of the scriptures, is looked upon as the FIRST CAUSE of all aspects of man’s redemption and salvation from sin’s dreadful curse, with everlasting life given to undeserving sinners, I ask, who receives the glory for such divine work of love and mercy, MAN or GOD? Rest assured, if man can take ANY glory, or boast in any aspect of salvation’s experience in time or eternity, it is a God-dishonoring concept and a total error; “another gospel!”

Be persuaded of this one thing: If God is not the FIRST CAUSE of all things which come to pass in time and in eternity, it shall not occur.

And, as ALL things which do occur are manifested in time, it is fulfilling the will of HE who “worketh ALL things after the counsel of his own will and determined purpose, who alone hath declared the end from the beginning of all things.”

“For our God is in the heavens and he hath done whatsoever he has pleased.”

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald E. Martin, Sr.

Note: Please forgive all grammatical and typo errors, for a mortal penned these words.