

The Gospel Herald

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

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by

Donald E. Martin, Sr.

Predestination Without Means?

I have heard of late of those who endorse a “predestination” that is without the use of means of any kind. Now I am a strong advocate of the doctrine of the Biblically taught NO MEANS salvation being revealed that the Gospel is a means, but not as a vehicle which brings or causes the new birth nor spiritual awakening. For the Gospel is a means which brings “life and immortality to light” in the elect heir of grace (II Tim. 1:10).

And there is a saving and or deliverance in time to the child of grace that is brought about through the means of the gospel as our Lord Jesus expressed in prayer in John chapter seventeen, “Sanctify them through thy word: Thy word is truth” (John 17:17). This is a setting apart deliverance from darkness into the marvelous light of gospel truth as it reveals and brings to our understanding the character, deity and attributes of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, to say that God has predestined ALL things (which He has) and to further state “without the use of means” causes me concern. And here is the reason.

If you were to have need to sell your house or property, would you not solicit the use of a Real Estate Agency? Or would you just say, “well if God wants the home and property sold He’ll send someone by and I’ll just sit here and wait”? Or if you were sickly and ill with Appendicitis would you just sit at home as say, “Well, if God has predestined me to die I will and if not, I’ll live; therefore, I will just sit here let happen what happens?”

If you desired to sell your automobile would just say, “Well if God wants it sold he’ll bring a buyer by and it’ll be sold, so I do have to put a sign on it or advertise it by any means?” Now I would have to agree that the person which would take the positions that I have just mentioned, would be in my estimation a full-fledged PREDESTINARIAN.

Yet, throughout the scriptures God has often used a MEANS to carry out various aspects of his determined decreed predestined purposes in the events that come to pass in our

daily lives. God's divine messengers, the angelic host is a "MEANS" by which the Almighty blesses his children and the Church in general. I have not met a professing "Predestinarian" to date that has not sought out the use of "Means" to progressively continue through this time world. One of the most esteemed brothers I know, that has had numerous eye problems over the recent years, as strong of an advocate of "predestination" as he is, he sought the help of Medical Science to operate and do various procedures on his eyes so that his vision may be improved. Now, he could have just said, "I am NOT seeking any means to mess with my body, I am going to rely on God who has predestined ALL things to either make my eyes better or I go blind." Sort of ridiculous isn't it when you really think about it. Has not The God that has ordained ALL things, even determined medical science to be a tool to assist God's elect children in time? YES; He has, even as He has ALL things being used to bless his children as it fulfills his divine will and purpose. I would solicit the use of a Realtor to sell my home if I was in need to sell it, and I would trust our God to direct the Realtor to have a buyer. If God did not want the home sold you could solicit ten (10) Realtors and IT WOULD NOT BE SOLD. Have I lessened by belief and trust in the Predestined purpose of the Almighty by seeking "means" to assist (or not assist) in my matters of Health in this mortal life? I am persuaded that GOD USES MEANS in his determined purposes in the lives of his elect children. And I think that most if not all would agree, or you need to immediately go and throw out EVERY "means" medication which you are currently taken down the toilet!! Because you have submitted yourself to a MEANS other than "TOTALLY" relying on the "predestined purpose" of God WITHOUT MEANS.

As for me, I trust and rely on our Almighty Master, King and Saviour to direct my steps and grant me wisdom as to what MEANS I am to use as I go through this time world in matters of which I am faced day-by-day.

January 28, 2008