

RIVERCHASE CHURCH OF CHRIST



"SCOOBY DOO AND THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S LOVE"

THE FALL OF MAN

*(Genesis 3:15;
Galatians 3:16)*



*“...I will put enmity between your seed and her seed,
and he shall bruise your head...”*

ABRAHAM

*(Genesis 12:3;
Galatians 3:8)*



*“...The scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the
Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to
Abraham saying, IN YOU ALL NATIONS OF THE
EARTH WILL BE BLESSED...”*

ISRAEL

*(Genesis 12:2;
Romans 9:6)*



*“...they are not all Israel who are descended from
Israel...”*

PROPHETS

*(Hebrews 1:1;
1 Peter 1:12)*



*“...God spoke to the fathers through the prophets in
many portions and in many ways...”*

MYSTERY

*...the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus
our Lord... Ephesians 3:11*

pur·pose

/ˈpɜrpəs/

Noun

The reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists.

Verb

To will, desire or plan

Purpose

Meaning; goal, aim, objective, object, intent

- goal
- aim
- objective
- object
- intent
- intention
- cause
- faith

That which God...

1. foreordained
2. planned beforehand
3. predetermined
4. predestined



GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE



“...Predestination we call the eternal decree of God, by which he has determined in Himself what would have to become of every individual of mankind. For they are not all created with a similar destiny; but eternal life is foreordained for some and eternal damnation for others. Every man, therefore, being created for one of these ends, we say, he is predestined to either life or to death...”

— JOHN CALVIN —

INSTITUTES OF THE
CHRISTIAN RELIGION

Calvinism



Total Hereditary Depravity

Man's nature is corrupt
No ability to choose good over evil

Unconditional Election

God's choice – A few saved
All others excluded from salvation

Limited Atonement

Limited to certain individuals
Righteousness to chosen ones only

Irresistible Grace

Faith by direct operation of the Holy Spirit
Holy Spirit never fails to convert the elect

Perseverance of the Saints

Given faith, kept in faith
If fall away, then never in grace

“...Those of mankind that are predestined unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel, and good pleasure of His will, hath chosen, in Christ, unto everlasting glory, out of His mere free grace and love. Without any foresight of faith, or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature as conditions...”



“...Do I receive God’s Spirit to MAKE me a child of God or BECAUSE I am a child of God...”?

“...BECAUSE you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit into our hearts crying, “ABBA FATHER...”?” Galatians 4:6



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“...All those whom God hath predestined unto life, and those only, He is pleased, in His appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, by His Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death, in which they are, by nature to grace and salvation, by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God, taking away their heart of stone...”

“...This effectual call is of God’s free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man, who is altogether passive therein until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it...”

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“...They whom God has accepted in His beloved, effectually called, sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be saved eternally...”

“...This perseverance of the saints depends not upon their own free will, but upon the immutability of the decree of election...”

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“...Although it be a great sin to condemn or neglect this ordinance, yet grace and salvation are not so inseparably annexed unto it, as that no person can be regenerated, or saved, without it...”

Chosen



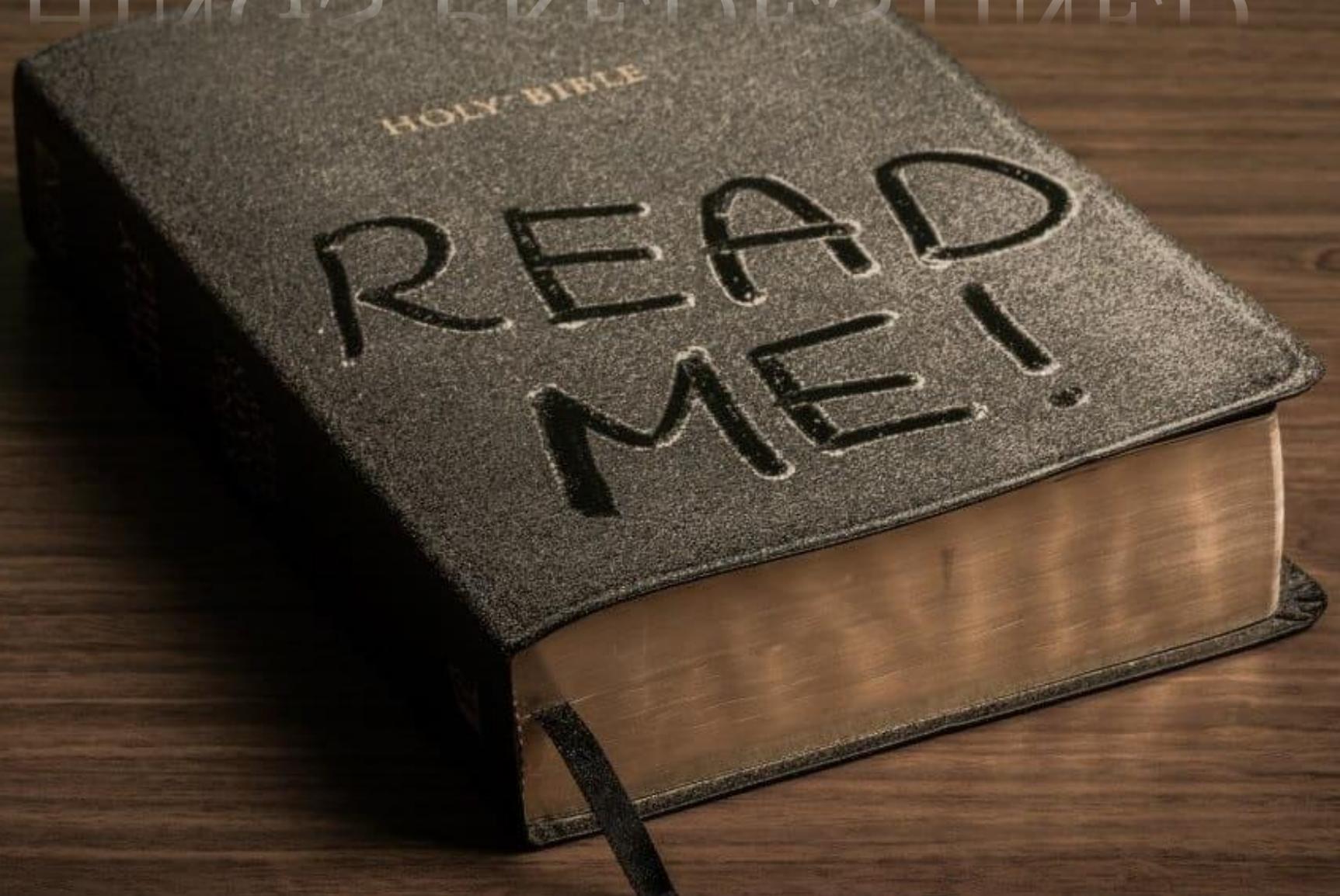
Called



Baptism

(OPTIONAL)

THINGS PREDESTINED...



I. THE DEATH OF CHRIST

“...Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know- this Man, **delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God**, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death...” Acts 2:22-23

“...For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do **whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur...**” Acts 4:27-28

“...And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written in the book of life of **the Lamb Who has been slain from the foundation of the world...**” Revelation 13:8

II. OUR BEING CONFORMED INTO HIS IMAGE

“... and we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...” Romans 8:28-30

PREDESTINED



“...And it was for this that He called you through our gospel, that you might gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ...” 2 Thessalonians 2:14

III. OUR STANDING BEFORE GOD HOLY AND BLAMELESS, OUR ADOPTION, AND OUR INHERITANCE

“...just as He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him...” Ephesians 1:4

“...In love He predestined us to adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself...” Ephesians 1:5

“...In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will...” Ephesians 1:10-11

IV. THE CHURCH

“...To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things; in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in keeping with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord...” Ephesians 3:8-11

PREDESTINED

V. THAT WE BE ABOUT THE “FATHER’S BUSINESS”

“...For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them...”

Ephesians 2:10

PREDESTINED

VI. THE “MYSTERY”

“...but we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom **which God predestined** before the ages to our glory... 1 Corinthians 2:7



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SYNONYMOUS PHRASES...

- *The mystery of His will (Eph.1:9)*
- *The mystery (Eph. 3:3)*
- *The mystery of Christ (Ephesians 3:4)*
- *The mystery of the gospel (Eph. 6:19)*
- *The mystery of God (1 Cor. 2:1; Col. 2:2)*
- *The mystery of the faith (1 Tim. 3:9)*
- *The “great” mystery (1 Tim. 3:16)*

MULTI-FACETED: MANY PARTS THAT MAKE UP THE WHOLE

The mystery of Christ and His church (Eph. 5:22-32)
The mystery of lawlessness (II Thess. 2:7)
The mystery of the hardening of Israel (Rom. 11:25)
The mystery of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:51)
The mysteries of the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 13:11)
The mystery of godliness (1 Tim. 3:16)
The mystery of the harlot church (Rev17:7)

THINGS CONCEALED
OR
THINGS REVEALED?

VI. THE “MYSTERY”

“...but we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom **which God predestined before the ages to our glory...** 1 Corinthians 2:7

THE MYSTERY: *Ephesians 3:1-11*

1. Once concealed but now revealed (*vs. 3,5*)
2. Has been communicated in words that can be understood if read (*vs.4*)
3. Involves Jews and Gentiles as fellow-heirs, fellow-members of the body and fellow-partakers of the promise in Christ through the gospel (*vs.6*)
4. The revelation of the mystery (God’s wisdom) was part of God’s eternal purpose (predestined plan) which He carried out in Christ (*vs.11*)
5. Intended to be made known through the church (*vs.10*)

The Mystery Defined:

Refers to the unveiling of God's wisdom: His insight into the true nature of things, what He defines as true and right and the revelation of that wisdom, specifically as it relates to the eternal, complete purpose of God in the scheme of human redemption through Christ.

Hebrews 1:25

“Cutting Bricks”

“Building a temple”

“Earning a living”

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WE PROCLAIM

***** HIM, *****

ADMONISHING EVERY MAN
* * * * *

AND TEACHING EVERY MAN
* * * * *

WITH ALL WISDOM,
SO THAT WE MAY PRESENT

every man complete in

CHRIST

- COLOSSIANS 1:28