

## Predestination

^ **The Westminster Confession of Faith**, adhered to by Presbyterians, some Baptists, and others of Calvinistic persuasion, states in part: “By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestinated to everlasting life, and others are foreordained to everlasting death.” By way of further clarification (?), the “**Confession**” declares that: “These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and **unchangeably** designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it **cannot** be either increased or diminished” (emp. Mine, bw). We are also informed, according to this source, that the **time**, when this predestination and foreordination process took place in the mind of God, was “**before** the foundation of the world was laid.”

If I believed the above fantastic conglomeration of fatalistic error, I would close my Bible, step down out of the pulpit, and never preach another sermon. There would be no need for Gospel preaching if the number saved or lost could neither be “increased or diminished!” The Gospel would not be “*the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth,*” Rom. 1:16, nor would it have “*pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe,*” I Cor. 1:21. I would not seek to persuade men to obey Jesus Christ, because if the number of the saved or lost was already so definitely pre-determined that it could neither be “increased or diminished,” then Christ would not be “*the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him,*” Heb. 5:9. Instead of it being “*woe unto me, I preach not the gospel,*” I Cor. 9:16, it would be “woe unto him whom **God foreordained** to eternal **damnation!**”

But, we ask, is the number of the saved so fixed that “it cannot be either increased or diminished?” By way of reply, we urge you to ponder the following words from the pen of Peter, an inspired apostle: “*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy,*” I Peter 2:9-10.

Please observe these facts from the scriptures just cited: Beforehand, they were “*not a people.*” “*Now,*” he says they “*are..the people of God.*” Beforehand, they had “*not obtained mercy;*” now they “*have obtained mercy.*” Hence, according to these verses, the number of those who became “*the people of God*” **did** increase, and the **time** of that increase was long **after** “the foundation of the world was laid.” What happened in their experience which caused such a change of spiritual location and condition? Peter said that God “*called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*” But through **what means** are people “*called?*” This question was answered by Paul in his second letter to the church at Thessalonica. He wrote, “*whereunto He called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ,*” 2 Thess. 2:14.

This is why Jesus said: “*Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned,*” Mark 16:15,16. The “*he*” that “*shall be saved*” is not the he whom God “unchangeably designed” for heaven, but rather it was the “*he that believeth and is baptized.*” The “*he*” that “*shall be damned*” is not the he whom God “unchangeably designed” for eternal torment, but rather it is the “*he that believeth not.*”

We plead with our Calvinistic friends to throw away their creed book, pick up their Bible and follow it, because God, in the Bible has “unchangeably designed” that those who add to, take from, or substitute their ideas for **God’s** inspired truths will be eternally lost! Gal. 1:6-9; 2 John 9; Rev. 22:18-19. Thank God for the gospel! Friend, have you obeyed its precepts in order to become a Christian, and are you following its precepts in order to remain a Christian? — Bobby Witherington

\*\*\*