Thursology 123: God *PREDESTINES* My Sin…But *I'M* To Blame??? Calvinism and Human Responsibility (Book of Life-Pt 5)

(*Thursology Live!* 5/1/2025)

--The Lamb's Book of Life:

--Revelation 20:12, 15: "…and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*…And if anyone's name was not found written in *the book of life*, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

--The implications of the Calvinist doctrine of Unconditional Election/Double Predestination:

--Implication #8: The doctrine of Unconditional Election is founded *entirely* on a concept of God's *sovereignty* that *excludes* the possibility that humans have *any moral freedom*…or that we ever have any ability to make real *choices*

--A. W. Tozer: God sovereignly decreed that humans would be free to exercise moral choice between good and evil. When they choose to do evil, they do not thereby *frustrate* the sovereign will of God, but *fulfill* it. The eternal decree decided not *which* choice the human would make, but that they would be *free* to *make* it. Mankind's will is free *because* God is sovereign. A God Who is less than sovereign could not bestow moral freedom upon His creatures because He would be *afraid* to do so…Because God is omniscient, there can be no unforeseen circumstances and no accidents. But within the broad field of God's sovereign, permissive will, the deadly conflict between good and evil is allowed by Him. And in this battle, there is freedom to choose which side we shall be on. But there is no freedom to negotiate the *results* of the choice once it is made. Our choice is our own, but the *consequences* of the choice have *already been determined* by the sovereign will of God.

--Implication #9: God holds people _____ for doing the very thing that He _____ them to do.

--Edwin Palmer says, "…all things are ordained by God—including sin and unbelief—thus, God has ordained who will be unbelievers…"

--R. C. Sproul: "God wills all things that come to pass…God desired for man to fall into sin…God created sin."

--Arthur Pink: "In His omniscience and foreknowledge, not only did God *see* Adam eating of the forbidden fruit, He *decreed* beforehand that he *would* do so."

--Palmer: "…God decides all that is to happen in the entire universe. Nothing in this world happens by chance. God is in back of everything. He decides and causes all things to happen that do happen…He has foreordained everything after the counsel of His will: the moving of a finger, the beating of a heart, the laughter of a girl, the mistake of a typist…even every *sin*."

--A gigantic question: If God _____ people to sin…how can they be _____ for that sin???

--Edwin Palmer: "God _____ sin, and man is to _____."

--Concept #1: Humans aren't _____…we're _____

--Frederic Farrar: "What God _____ a human to do must be within the power of their _____ to obey, since _____ is the measurement of _____.

--Isaiah 1:4: "Alas, sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, sons who act corruptly! They have *abandoned* the Lord, they have *despised* the Holy One of Israel, they have *turned away* from Him."

--Luke 7:30: "…the Pharisees and the lawyers *rejected* God's *purpose* for themselves…"
--Romans 10:21: But as for Israel He says, "All the day long *I have stretched out My hands* to a *disobedient* and *obstinate* people."

--Jeremiah 44:1, 4-5, 7: The word that came to Jeremiah for all the Jews living in the land of Egypt…"I sent you all My servants the prophets, *again and again*, saying, 'Oh, do not do this abominable thing which I hate.' But *they did not listen or incline their ears to turn from their wickedness*, so as not to burn sacrifices to other gods"…Now then thus says…the God of Israel, "*Why are you doing great harm to yourselves*…?"

--God's direct question: "Why are _____ doing great harm to _____…?"

--Concept #2: God _____ sin…then _____ humans to sin… then _____ them eternally for carrying out the sin which He _____ that they would do.

--The fundamental basis for *JUST* punishment: *Justice* in punishment _____ that the offender might have _____ the offense for which they are punished.

--Dave Hunt: "It is as if God has thrown billions of people into the ocean, whom He has so created that they cannot swim a stroke. And then, He "mercifully" rescues some of them, but leaves the majority of them to drown in eternal death. How could anyone say to those whom God created to drown, 'It is your own fault!'?"

--Where this Calvinist concept breaks down:

--Breakdown #1: No one can *justly* be held _____ for failing to do what is _____ for them to do.

--Breakdown #2: The height of *injustice* is God _____ humans to carry out *the very sin* which He _____*!!!*

--I John 1:1-5: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. *In Him was life*, and the life was *the Light of men*. *The Light shines in the darkness*…

--Exodus 24:12, 15, 18: Now the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction."…Then Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain…Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

--31:18: When He had finished speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God.

--Application #1: We all tend to _____ our _____ on someone else

--Article Title: Free to be creatures again: How predestination descended like a dove on two unsuspecting seminarians, and why they are so grateful." (*Christianity Today*: 2000;Oct 23:38-44)

--The essence of the article: "_____ God for _____ has been such a _____ that we decided the least we could do was to tell the world how we got here."

--The bottom line to the article…and to modern psychology:

--I'm not _____ for my _____!!!

--Application #2: No sin is _____…but…forgiveness requires _____ repentance…and repentance means taking _____ for my sin*!!!*

--I John 1:10: If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

--I John 1:5-9: This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and *in Him there is no darkness at all*. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet *walk in the darkness*, we lie and do not practice the truth; *but if we walk in the Light* as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and *the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin*. *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving* ourselves and the truth is not in us. *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*.

Thursology 122: Freedom—Can We Choose…or Did God Predetermine Everything??? (The Book of Life-Pt 4)

(*Thursology Live!* 4/3/2025)

--The Lamb's Book of Life:

--Revelation 20:12, 15: "…and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*…And if anyone's name was not found written in *the book of life*, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

--The "TULIP" of Classical Calvinism:

--**T**otal Depravity

--**U**nconditional Election/"Double Predestination"

--**L**imited Atonement

--**I**rresistible Grace

--**P**erseverance of the Saints

--Predestination and the Reformed Concept of Unconditional Election:

--The Westminster Confession: "By the *decree* of God, for the manifestation of His own glory, some humans and angels are *predestined* unto everlasting *life*, and others *foreordained* to everlasting *death*"

--The implications of the doctrine of Unconditional Election:

--Implication #8: The doctrine of Unconditional Election is founded *entirely* on a concept of God's *sovereignty* that EXCLUDES the possibility that humans have any moral FREEDOM…or that we ever have any ability to make real CHOICES

--Reformed theologians on God's sovereignty and human choice:

--W. E. Best: "*No person* since Adam has ever had *free will*…every unsaved person is *free* to go only in *one direction*…*free* to choose *against* Christ."

--Denham Smith: "I believe in *free will*; but it is a will *only free* to act according to nature…the sinner could never have a will according to God…A person may *choose* to reject Christ—all people do—but *only* those who have been *elected* may *choose* to accept Christ."

--Edwin Palmer: "*Moral freewill* is the kind of freedom that *no man has*. Humans don't have the *ability* to *believe* on Christ or to *reject* Him. We have *no ability or freedom to choose either good or evil*."

--John Gerstner: "It is your **DECISION** to choose or reject Christ, but it is not of your own **FREE** will."

--The rational response:

--James Gray: "No finite mind can hold God's sovereignty and man's free agency equally, and at the same time. However, they are both biblical and both must be emphasized without excluding the other."

--William Pettingill: "God insists upon His sovereignty and, also, upon man's responsibility. Believe both and preach both. Leave the task of 'harmonizing' with Him.'"

--A. W. Tozer:

"God sovereignly decreed that humans would be free to exercise moral choice between good and evil. When they choose to do evil, they do not thereby *frustrate* the sovereign will of God, but *fulfill* it. The eternal decree decided not *which* choice the human would make, but that they would be *free* to *make* it. Mankind's will is free *because* God is sovereign. A God Who is less than sovereign could not bestow moral freedom upon His creatures because He would be *afraid* to do so."

"Because God is omniscient, there can be no unforeseen circumstances and no accidents. But within the broad field of God's sovereign, permissive will, the deadly conflict between good and evil is allowed by Him. And in this battle, there is freedom to choose which side we shall be on. But there is no freedom to negotiate the *results* of the choice once it is made. Our choice is our own, but the *consequences* of the choice have *already been determined* by the sovereign will of God."

--The futility of arguing against human freedom: Logic…and Scripture

--Freedom Point #1: The common **EXPERIENCE** of all humans

--Dave Hunt: "The fact that God has granted humans the ability to freely choose within the boundaries that He has allowed is *continually validated by daily experience*.

--L. S. Keyser: "That humans have a conscience which distinguishes between right and wrong, and a *free will* by which we are *able to choose between them* scarcely requires any argument at all. *Our whole experience of life* tells us that we have the *ability* to make moral choices."

--Alexander Maclaren: "If I cannot trust my sense that I can *choose* to do something or not to do it, then there's *nothing* that I can trust. Clearly *God has given us the power* to either join His purpose or oppose it."

--Freedom Point #2: The concepts of **PRAISE** and **WORSHIP** become a sham…apart from free will

--Psalm 54:6: "*Willingly* I will sacrifice to You; I will give thanks to Your name, O Lord…"

--Freedom Point #3: The biblical text is *full* of the **VOCABULARY** of human **CHOICE**

--Prov 4:20-21, 23-27:

--"…*give attention* to my words; *incline* your ear to my sayings…*keep* them in the midst of your heart. *Watch over* your heart with all diligence…*Put away* from you a deceitful mouth and *put* devious speech far from you. *Let your eyes* look directly ahead and *let your gaze* be fixed straight in front of you. *Watch* the path of your feet and all your ways will be established. *Do not turn* to the right nor to the left; *turn* your foot from evil.

--Freedom Point #4: The biblical story *continuously* emphasizes the **INTERACTION** between God and humanity

--Isaiah 1:2, 4, 19-20:

--Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; for the Lord speaks, "Sons I have raised and brought up, but they have *revolted* against Me…Alas, sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity…sons who *act corruptly*! They have *abandoned* the Lord, they have *despised* the Holy One of Israel, They have *turned away* from Him…*If* you *consent and obey*, you will eat the best of the land; but *if* you *refuse and rebel*, you will be devoured by the sword."

--II Chronicles 36:11-12, 14-16: Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king and…He *did evil* in the sight of the Lord his God…Furthermore, all the officials of the priests and the people *were very unfaithful* following all the abominations of the nations; and they defiled the house of the Lord…*The Lord*, the God of their fathers, sent word to them *again and again* by His messengers…but they continually *mocked* the messengers of God, *despised* His words and *scoffed* at His prophets…until *there was no remedy*.

--Freedom Point #5: The very last command in the Bible is an **APPEAL** to the human **WILL***!!!*

--Revelation 22:17: The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who *wishes* take the *free gift* of the water of life.

--Application: Sinners rarely COME to Christ…unless those who have ALREADY come to Christ…care enough to TELL them about Christ*!!!*

--Acts 4:7-10, 12-20:

--When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health…And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and *began to recognize them as having been with Jesus*. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in reply. But when they had ordered them to leave the Council, they began to confer with one another, saying, "What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them is apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But so that it will not spread any further among the people, *let us warn them to speak no longer to any man in this name*." And when they had summoned them, *they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus*. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; for *we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard*."

--Two unmistakable attributes in Christ's followers:

--Unmistakable Attribute #1 (V. 13): The people **RECOGNIZED** that they had been **WITH** *Jesus*!!!

--Unmistakable Attribute #2 (V. 20): They **COULDN'T** stop **SPEAKING** about *Jesus!!!*

--The Big Question: *What are we waiting for*???