

PREDESTINATION!

When someone asks us if we believe in predestination, we should say of course we do, the Bible teaches it. That is not what we frequently do. We try to do is to avoid the subject.

Predestination is clearly taught in the Bible:

1. Romans 8:28-30 "whom He predestined, these He also called"
2. Ephesians 1:4-5 "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world... He predestined us to adoption"
4. Ephesians 1:11 "having been predestined according to His purpose...."

As commonly understood, "predestined means that you are selected by God to be saved and cannot do anything about it. You are in the grace of God and cannot get out of it. Be as good or as bad as you want and your fate is already determined. Some denominations carry this to the point of figuring out that there a specific number who are predestined to be saved, i.e. 144,000. Oddly enough in some of the groups teaching this, they have more than 144,000 members today so that should make an uncomfortable situation in church services.

Consider Galatians 5:4 "You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace". Being "in the

grace" would have to be in a saved state at that time. This would say that the Bible is teaching that someone could be going to Heaven on one day and due to a personal action not be going to Heaven the next day. The Bible teaches that too. This means that God's Bible has error in it, or there is another definition of grace or predestination.

Sound Doctrine Books by

M.A.R. Spinks

ABIDING IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

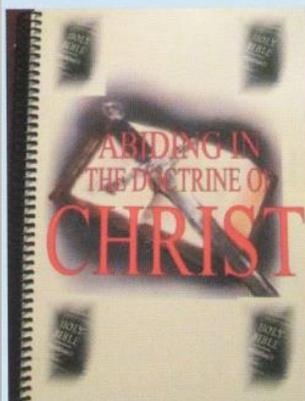
Books:

Abiding in the Doctrine of Christ - \$35

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Sound Doctrinal Bible Lessons...

- Scriptural Bible Class Lessons...
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Material personally endorsed by Dr. Jack Evans, Sr. (June 2012)

"I applaud you for publishing a very qualitative, informative, refreshing and True-to-The Book document....your ides are cogent, clear, and easy for truth seekers to understand."

PREDESTINATION! , P. 2

It is important to know that there was no Webster's dictionary in the first century. Since then sincere men have translated the Gospel teaching the best they could. Whereas the core of the Gospel is certainly correct, we deal with some peripheral problems. The word "baptism" is an example of this as the translation should have been immersion but it would have offended King James who was paying for the King James translation. We deal with sprinkling and pouring as a result.

Predestination seems to be another word in which common usage is incompatible with the remainder of the scriptures.

In Matthew 18:3 Jesus tells us "Truly I say unto you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven." That clearly states that you were at some point not in a state of going to Heaven and then would become into a state of going to Heaven, and gives a requirement. To become like a child. Would it not be reasonable to conclude therefore that all children are going to heaven or in other words are predestination to go to Heaven.

As most all of us at one time or another were a child, it means that we were all predestined to go to Heaven at one time. But now some number of us are no longer going to Heaven. The match to this is that God predestined for all to be born in a state of going to Heaven, but when we sin, we give up our predestination. When we are baptized and follow Jesus, we regain our predestination or the state of being in a position of going to Heaven.

That is not only easy to understand, but seems to be compatible with all parts of the Bible.

In summary what this means is that we were all born sinless and therefore predestined to go to Heaven, we ultimately sin and lose our predestination, and gain it back thru submission to Jesus' plan.

We should not be ducking the subject of predestination—or any other subject in the Bible. We need to speak where the Bible speaks—all of it.

RED & ROVER



SHEPHERDS OR ELDERS

The primary office of leadership is called bishops, overseers, elders, or shepherds. The terms are interchangeable as far as the scriptures are concerned, but they mean different things to us. "Bishop" is seldom used, probably because it reminds most of the Catholic Church hierarchy. Overseer is never used. "Elder" is most often used. Shepherd is used more than bishop but less than elders. Have you ever heard of a shepherdship as a group of shepherds? It is always an eldership.

The meaning of shepherd has a connotation towards someone who shepherds or takes care of the flock. The meaning of elder has a connotation towards one who rules (or manages) over the flock. In a small congregation, these activities are of necessity combined in a few individuals, and can be handled by a few individuals.

In a congregation of a 500-1000 members, you may well have 10 shepherds/elders, each of which is reasonably responsible for shepherding 100 members. That is a major job. Additionally, managing the activities of a 500-1000 member growing congregation is a major job.

If you look at people around you, you can identify some who have talent at shepherding and managing, some with talent at either shepherding or managing, and some with little talent at either.

If you have 10 elders it is unlikely you have some with no talent at either, but will likely have some with talent at only one. We are going to presume for sake of discussion that you have at least one who is good at shepherding and not good at managing a business.

Our normal solution is to have all elders as equal and rotate as being chairman for quarter. A completely acceptable option, but has the drawback of putting the non-manager in charge for a quarter. In our congregation we would say "George is the chair this quarter, so don't make a proposal until Jim is the chair next quarter". We can get it done then.

Consider as an option we recruit men to be shepherds instead of elders. It is a small change but it emphasizes the role which they cannot delegate. They aren't recruited to do the managing of the daily affairs, but are recruited to set scriptural operating guidelines and get to shepherding.

They can appoint or hire a manager to manage the daily affairs. The shepherds set the policy and the manager implements the policies and reports to the shepherds regularly.

You have 500-1000 members, so you can afford to hire a manager or should have some deacon you can trust. The manager does a full time job, not a leftover job which is a distraction to the shepherding that the shepherd is supposed to be doing.

If the eldership cannot trust a non-shepherd to do the daily administration of the congregation, it is ultimately not a criticism of the congregation, it is a criticism of the management of the eldership.

At this point, it is not important how we got here. It is important that we make appropriate scriptural changes to restore the Lord's church to a growth pattern.

4000 FREE EVANGELISM HOURS / MONTH

Consider you are part of the leadership over a 500 member congregation. You follow the standard pattern of having the members sit in an auditorium or class room Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night and listen to someone try to be interesting for the nth time in a row.

Among other things, the decline in attendance from Sunday morning to Sunday night to Wednesday night will confirm to you that this is not working well in today's supercharged society.

Alternately, just think of what you could do with 4000 hours a month focused on evangelism related tasks. **4000 hours a month is almost as simple as asking.**

Consider that you ask each of your members to attend for 2 hours on Wednesday night (that would be 4000+ hours) doing something fulfilling and interesting to them. You never get 100% participation in anything, however, if a member is convinced he or she is going to do something interesting and fulfilling, many will participate.

You just have 2 chores to do then:

1. Develop a program of interesting and fulfilling tasks. As a start, getting together and developing a list of fulfilling and interesting tasks is an interesting and fulfilling thing to do. Do not try to do it for them, involve them in the process.
2. Develop enough management and administrative capacity in your organization to administer 500 members being actively involved. This is likely a larger task than item 1, largely because everyone under estimates this task and doesn't address it adequately.

As example, a frequent idea is a visitation program. It is difficult to determine if most members dislike it more or the people being visited do.

Consider as an alternative, a portion of your workers are assigned to host a monthly Friday Game Night party as a service project the third Friday of each month. While sitting around playing dominos, they are allowing any member of the congregation to invite a personal contact to come play dominos in the church fellowship center on the third Friday night of the month.

Your workers are trained well enough to know that when Jim Bob walks in with someone, one is to stand up and ask for a fill-in as he goes to the rest room. (Jim Bob called ahead with game preference) The person is instantly engaged in a social situation and is in a favorable situation for the personal evangelism process to occur.

How many activities can you name in which a shy member can more comfortably engage someone in the evangelism process. Good, do those also.

The message of this is not to do these activities. It is a no-brainer that these are good activities. The message is that a group of these activities required substantial behind the scenes administration (another fulfilling and interesting task to some). We seem to believe that all the sheep are supposed to know how to coordinate this. They are sheep and cannot accomplish major ongoing work of their own initiative. As a church leader you must lead, or in this case you must delegate to those with the appropriate coordination talents.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION! - WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE!

Paul VanderLinden & Benton Baugh

An atheist friend commented that “scientific theories” have the ability to be tested and revised over time based upon additional observations. Christianity has a single book a least couple of thousand years old and it just stays the same. Flexible vs. inflexible. That is an interesting statement, but let’s say it the opposite way. Christianity had the truth revealed more than 2000 years ago and it will remain the same until the end of the earth as it is the truth. Scientific theories” (typically postulated on the thesis that there is no God) are continually having to be revised as they find out they are wrong. This is not a science vs. God question – they are in harmony. This is a religion vs. anti-religious theories question.

Last month we presented an article on **”What you have to believe to be an atheist!”**. Some of the things you must believe to be a good atheist today will be discarded in the future and the future atheists will laugh at you for believing such silly things, just as you presently laugh at some of your atheistic predecessor’s ideas.

This article is to let you know some of the former “facts” of evolution which you no longer have to believe to be a good atheist.

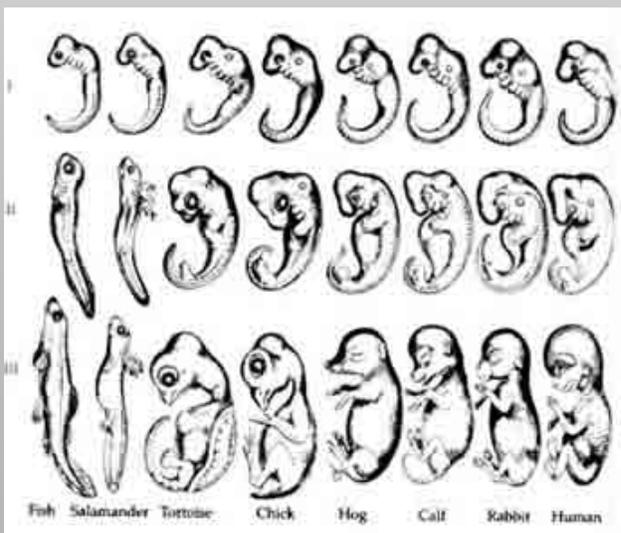
HAEKEL, ERNST (1834-1919) *Ontogeny Recapitulates Phylogeny?*

The theory of embryonic recapitulation asserts that the human fetus goes through various stages of its

evolutionary history as it develops. Ernst Haeckel published this theory in 1868, promoting Darwin’s theory of evolution in Germany. He made detailed drawings of the embryonic development of eight different embryos in three stages of development, to bolster his claim. His work was hailed as a great development in the understanding of human evolution. Shortly after being published a professor from the University of Basal exposed his **drawings as being fabricated**, and his data manufactured. He blamed the artist for the discrepancies, without admitting that he was the artist. U.S. schools continued to publish the drawings (never mentioning



the fraud) in text books into the 1990’s. (source: Russell Grigg, "Fraud Rediscovered", *Creation*, Vol. 20, No. 2, pp.49-51)



BRONTOSAURUS: 1874 – 1974

One of the best known dinosaurs in books and museums for the past hundred years, Brontosaurus never really existed. The dinosaur’s skeleton was found with the head missing. To complete it in 1883, **a skull found three or four miles**

away was added. No one knew this for years.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION! - WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE! 2

The body actually belonged to an Apatosaurus and the head was from a Camarasaurus. It was not until 1979 that a correct Apatosaurus head was placed on the skeleton to correct the error but textbooks continued to depict the non-existent Brontosaurus for several decades as it was slowly removed. In 1989 the U.S. Postal service published a Brontosaurus stamp. (source: Paul S. Taylor, The Great Dinosaur Mystery and the Bible, [Chariot Victor Publishing, 1989],

In 1953 E.T. Hall examined the famous bones with fluorescent X-rays and discovered they had been **stained with potassium dichromate** to make them look fossilized. Hill discovered iron filings, which showed that an orangutan's teeth had been filed down to look human. (FF, Jan 02, p 31., Icons of Evolution, p 217)

PILTDOWN MAN 1912-1953

Supposedly dug up in a gravel pit in Piltdown England in 1912 and purported to be the missing link between apes and humans. Its skull resembled a human, but the jaw was ape-like. The hoax fooled many researchers and it served as a "scientific fact" as evidence for the truth of Darwinism for about 40 years.

NEBRASKA MAN (1917-1925)



Declared to be the first higher primate of North America **based on a single tooth**, which turned out to be the tooth of an extinct peccary (pig). It was classified as an ape and the attached drawing is what it was supposed to look like. A single severely weathered misidentified pig's tooth, discovered in Nebraska in 1922 grew into an entire evolutionary link between man and apes. Five years later the tooth was correctly identified and the Nebraska Man was debunked.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION! - WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE! 3

ORCE MAN (1982-1983):



Found in the southern Spanish town of Orce in 1982, and hailed as the oldest

fossilized human remains ever found in Europe. One year later officials admitted the skull fragment was not human but probably came from a **4 month old donkey**. Scientists had said the skull belonged to a 17 year old man who lived 900,000 to 1.6 million years ago, and even had very detail drawings done to represent what he would have looked like. Many have not heard of the Orce Man because it was debunked before it entered the textbooks. There were still some anthropologists arguing in 2000 that the skull fragment was that of an early ape man. (source: "Skull fragment may not be human", Knoxville News-Sentinel, 1983)

Archaeoraptor Liaoningensis 1999-

Fake Dinosaur-bird ancestor

The most recent and perhaps the most infamous evolution frauds was committed in China and published in 1999 in the journal National Geographic 196:98-107, November 1999. **Dinosaur bones were put together with the bones of a newer species of bird** and they tried to pass it off as a very important new evolutionary intermediate.

"Feathers For T-Rex?", Christopher P. Sloan, National Geographic Magazine, Vol. 196, No. 5, November, 1999, pp.99,100,105

Interesting Quote - "National Geographic has



reached an all-time low for engaging in sensationalistic, unsubstantiated, tabloid journalism" Storrs L. Olson, Smithsonian Institution

Time and time again questionable evidence supporting atheistic evolution has been fully embraced by the "scientific" community with minimal vetting. Great effort and haste is put into identifying any creature that might fit into the "missing link" category even though scientists know that if any of these creatures were alive today they would be found in the wild or in a zoo. They would not be in the house down the block or in our offices. Once the evidence supporting these creatures is proven false the scientific community should be embarrassed by how long it takes to remove the erroneous examples from textbooks, encyclopedias and other usage.

The question is whether this repeated "favorable treatment status" of anything which can be used in an attempt to prove atheistic evolution over God is simply sloppy science or the basic dogma of a competitive religion. It is certainly not good science.

GOD'S GRACIOUS GIFTS

Too much of our lifetimes are spent discounting God's great and generous gifts. He has given us exactly the spiritual gifts he wants us to use for his glory. And yet, we continue to think of ourselves as not measuring up. We think of our gifts as pitifully poor, inadequate gifts considering what others can do.

Think of all the "I can't," in your life. Some of them are simply, "I'm not willing to try," or fear, "I might not be good enough." Let's agree that, yes, each one has some under-developed gifts. And we can even agree that nothing we do will ever compare with what others do! After all, each person is unique. So how do we handle this attitude of lack in face of God's great gifts?

With an attitude of submission to God's wisdom, we will do what we can, continue to learn, practice, try again, look for opportunities and listen for guidance. Keep current with God, stay in the present moment so you can respond to God's prompting. When an activity or person comes to mind from among the jillions of possibilities consider that a prompting for God. You may be the only one to receive that call to service.

Give all your pitifully poor, inadequate, immature gifts to God and he will provide a way for you to mature! "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." (Eph. 3:20 NLT)

What we are is God's gift to us: what we make of ourselves is our gift to God.

Elizabeth Brown

THE BASIC PREMISE OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IS THAT:

- 1. ALL CHRISTIAN REVELATION WAS GIVEN IN THE FIRST CENTURY, &**
- 2. FIRST CENTURY REVELATION INCLUDES SOME INSTRUCTIONS WHICH ARE NOT OPTIONAL TO IGNORE.**

ANOTHER WAY TO SAY THIS IS "SPEAK WHERE THE BIBLE SPEAKS, AND REMAIN SILENT WHERE THE BIBLE IS SILENT".

ANOTHER WAY TO SAY THIS IS REV. 22: 18-19: ¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. ¹⁹ And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

The old law tells us of the seriousness of God's judgment.

The new law tells of God's expectations of us today.

The church of Christ attempts to follow God's instructions rather than contemporary preferences to be sure you will be pleasing to God on judgment day.

Would you want to be anyplace else?

All we need to do is to effectively communicate that.

Foster's Home for Children

*"More than a home,
A sanctuary."*

Placement applications accepted.
Employment applications welcome.
Applications and donations available
online at
www.fostershome.org
Stephenville, Texas

FAILING A TEST WITH DIGNITY

Explain the phrase 'free press'.

When your mum irons
trousers for you.

DO
YOU
BELIEVE
THE
BIBLE?

The first century church taught children are born sinless (Matt 18:3)

If your religious group teaches something else, you might like to visit your local Church of Christ.

The Churches of Christ attempt to speak where the Bible Speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent. (Rev. 22:18-19)

Quotable Quotes

Give God what's right -- not what's left.

MONEY PAGE

GUARANTEED CHURCH GROWTH

If your congregation does the following, BCE Publications guarantees that it will grow.

Poll your congregation three times at 6 months intervals with the following results:

- 50% of the members know who their elder is
- 50% of the members will say that a minister is their friend
- 50% of the members will say that they are uplifted by the song services
- 50% of the men will say that their input is considered before physical decisions are made
- 50% of the members will say they are an important part of the work
- 50% of the members will say they are aware of the goals of the congregation
- 50% of the members will say that they know what their part is in achieving your goals

GUARANTEE: For the first congregation which does this and does not grow by at least 10%, we will send \$1000 to the church related children's home of your choice in your name.

I have never met a person who said that if they did this their church would not grow. If your congregation is not growing, what have you got to lose? (Offer made since 2001)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION?

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can explain how we could have violated the first law of thermodynamics and have come into existence without God.

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can explain how we could have violated the second law of thermodynamics and have existed forever without God. (Offer first posted 8/08)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION!

This publication continues (since 1991) to make a standing offer of \$100 to the first person who can give any reason (1 or more) as to why atheistic evolution is a better explanation for the universe and/or life than creation by God, The Father of Adam, Abraham, and Jesus; as revealed in the Bible.

We will also give you \$100 if we cannot give you 12 reasons why atheistic evolution is impossible as an explanation for our existence.

We will discuss this any place, any time, and in any forum. (Offer posed since June, 1991)

RUN AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT:

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can refute the logic that a person can in fact run at the speed of light as presented in a "technical paper" on our website. This strikes at the erroneous belief that of the relativity theory based on the "constant" speed of light.

THE MONEY PAGE:

This page may seem odd, even irreverent to offer money for something like this. It is 3 simple statements on church growth, that we cannot be here without God, and evolution is not possible. The steadfastness of putting money on the line for this is to try to be of assistance against those who would discourage church growth, believe in atheism, or promote atheistic evolution. The page is intended to be a continuing reinforcement.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

AN E-MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

10/8-10/10 Lectureship at Oklahoma Christian University

2nd Tues. Preacher's Luncheon, confirm with Dale Foster at dalefost@gmail.com for address.

December Annual Sacred Harp Singing

5/22/14 Foster's Home For Children Golf Tournament, Blackhorse

Aug 2014 Area Wide Campaign for Christ

YAHOO GROUP

HoustonCofC is a Yahoo group hosted by Steve Sandifer [steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net] for the purpose of communicating Houston area news among the brethren. It is open to any member of the church at no cost.

The Christian Array Newsletter

This newsletter will be sent to members of the church on a monthly basis as an attempt to promote scriptural teachings, area wide activities and church growth. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, send an e-mail to info@thearray.org and it will be stopped.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter, send their e-mail addresses to info@thearray.org. All past copies of the newsletter can be found on the website "thearray.org".

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A goal of this newsletter is to develop a mailing list of as many members of the church as possible and to communicate church related information to as many members as possible. In that light, we would appreciate:

1. Your forwarding the church member e-mail addresses which you have.
2. Sending the directory of the congregation you attend or any other directories which you might have.
3. Give us an idea of how to collect church member e-mail addresses.

The Christian Array is dedicated to support the sustained scriptural growth of the churches of Christ. It is published by BCE Publications, a 501(c)(3) organization with Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E. as editor BCE is solely responsible for the content. Any announcements, requests for publication, or comments should be e-mailed to info@thearray.org.