

# The Purposes of God: Foreordination, Predestination, and Election

\*by J.M. Pendleton and W.T. Russell

## Homework Assignment:

1. Read **Romans 8:28-33**
2. Read **Ephesians 1:1-13**

## Lesson Outline

- I. Why a Purpose?
  - i. It is reasonable to expect this from God
    1. omniscient
    2. rational
    3. it is His advice to us
- II. God's Eternal Purpose
  - i. All things happen according to God's eternal purpose
    1. **II Timothy 1:9** – our salvation
    2. **Ephesians 3:9-11** – revelations through His church
    3. **Romans 8:28** – “all things work together for good to them that love God”
  - ii. The “Purpose” of everything is “The Glory of God”
    1. Creation – **Psalms 97:6**
    2. Man – **Isaiah 43:7**; **Revelation 4:11**; **Psalms 46:10**
    3. National Israel – **Isaiah 44:23**; **Isaiah 49:3**
    4. Jesus – **John 13:31**; **John 17:1**
    5. Christian – **I Corinthians 10:31**
    6. Church – **Ephesians 3:21**
  - iii. God alone is responsible for His purpose
    1. **Romans 11:34** – who has known the mind of the Lord or has been His counselor
    2. **Matthew 11:26** – “Even so, Father; for it seemed good in thy sight.”
    3. **Isaiah 46:9-10** – “...I will do all my pleasure”
  - iv. Unchangeable
    1. **Psalms 33:11** – all generation
    2. **Isaiah 14:24** – “... as I have purposed, so shall it stand”
  - v. Without Sin
    1. **James 1:13** – God separated from evil
    2. God permits sin, but does not purpose sin
  - vi. No violation of man's will

\* J.M. Pendleton's comments on the topic of Election were judged by the creator of these outlines (Elder John Keen) to be without sufficient Scriptural support and based too much on the prevalent Calvinistic traditions of his days. For this reason, the teachings on this topic were supplemented by Elder W.T. Russell's notes from a lesson presented at the Old Union Baptist Minister's School.

1. God is sovereign & man is free
    - a. **Daniel 4:35**
    - b. free agent – an intelligent being, who is at liberty to act according to his choice, without compulsion or restraint
  2. Adam, Abel, Abraham, etc. acted freely
  3. **Acts 2:23** – combining the Will of God with man's free choice
  4. **Matthew 23:37** – God's Will did not override man's free choice
- III. Foreordination – to establish or set apart, beforehand
- i. God's Purpose was foreordained in eternity
    1. **II Timothy 1:9**
    2. **Ephesians 2:10**
  - ii. Jesus was foreordained as the Lamb of God
    1. **I Peter 1:18-20**
    2. **Revelation 13:8**
- IV. Election – the selection of a person or persons to a purpose
- i. Israel elected by God – **Isaiah 45:4; Deuteronomy 7:6-8**
    1. elected to carry God's Name and His Word before the world
    2. they did not fail their elected purpose
    3. a national election, not personal
  - ii. Individuals are chosen (elected) to salvation through Jesus Christ
    1. **I Peter 1:2** (note: elect unto obedience – i.e. chosen to be obedient in harmony with salvation)
    2. All based on foreknowledge of God
    3. **John 15:16** – chosen and ordained to good works
  - iii. Individuals elected for special purposes
    1. Abraham, Moses, Mary, Apostles – **Acts 9:15**
    2. based on God's sovereign pleasure – **Romans 9:11**
- V. Predestination – to decree beforehand, to pre-determine
- i. No individual predestined to be saved but predestination becomes effective at salvation, based on foreknowledge
    1. **Romans 8:28-33** – predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ
    2. **Ephesians 1:1-13** – predestined to the adoption of children
  - ii. Predestination always refers to the believer and not to sinners
- VI. God's Purpose of Reprobation
- i. **Romans 1:28** – "God gave them over to a reprobate mind"