

PRIMITIVE BAPTIST MESSENGER

PULASKI, VA.

DECEMBER, 1966

Hear The Primitive Baptist Hour Sunday
Morning at 9:00 on WPUV, Radio, Pulaski, Va.

"Ten thousand ages ere the skies
Were into motion brought;
All the long years and worlds to come,
Stood present to His thought:
There's not a sparrow or a worm,
But's found in His decrees,
He raises monarchs to their throne
And sinks them as He please."

(Isaac Watts)

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WHAT DO TRUE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS BELIEVE ABOUT PREDESTINATION?

True Baptists believe that predestination is a bible doctrine. Although the word predestinated IS found. "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." Ephesians 1:5. "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will." (Verse 11.)

"For whom He did foreknow, He also did PREDESTINATE to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called; and whom He called, them He also justified; and whom He justified, them He also glorified." Romans 8:29-30.

The terminology of the word predestination is also worthy of consideration. In the break down of the term we find two component parts - pre and destinate. Pre is a prefix to the term destinate. And pre, as we all know, means to fix beforehand. Like pre-arrange. Meaning to arrange before hand, or to plan with a definite aim in view. Pre-view, means to view something in advance. DESTINATE or DESTINATION is derived from the term DESTINY, and destiny means a fixed end, a definite place, an inheritance. An illustration in a sentence would be, "We are planning a trip to town." The plan would be the prefix before the going. Town would be the destiny, the end of the plan.

And so it is our belief that God has pre-planned the destiny of His chosen people. They were chosen to this end in Christ before the world began. "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." Ephesians 1:4.

All other doctrinal features of salvation blend in and work together with the predestinated plan of God. In other words, those whom God foreknew in His covenant of grace did He also choose in His Son, making them heirs of God by promise, and just that many did He also predestinate to be conformed to the image and likeness of Christ in the glorious resurrection of the saints, when God shall change our vile bodies and fashion them like unto the glorious body of His dear Son. "Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called." This calling is an effectual calling from a death in sin to a life in Christ.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." John 5:25. There are many other phases of God's calling that are in harmony with this calling, of which we do not wish to discuss presently. "Whom I called, them He also justified." Justification is in harmony with the predestinated plan of God. Those predestinated of God for heaven had to be justified, for without it they could not rightfully enter into the inheritance, because of their sins. Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture, and rose again for (because of) our justification.

There are many phases of justification, such as justification by grace, by faith, and also a justification by works, concerning which we do not have time to discuss here.

The same persons whom God predestinated He also glorified. The first step of this glorification was in the death and resurrection of Christ, when He was glorified with the same glory He had with the Father before the world was. We are glorified in spirit by the Holy Spirit in the giving of life and the sanctification of our souls for His glory. There are many other phases of this glorification about which we shall not presently speak at length. I would not leave off the final glorification of the saints in the last day. This shall be the ultimate of all things with God's people. This certainly blends with the beautiful and consistent doctrine of predestination of which we are presently treating.

Predestination is NOT the doctrine that some suppose we teach, that every act of man, whether good, bad or indifferent was planned out in eternity, and that we must act according to that plan; that regardless of how bad a person acts here in the world, he is doing precisely as God previously planned for him to do. Of course, this is not true. In fact, it is not my understanding that God has predestinated any acts of man, whether good or bad. As we have already explained, predestination has to do with our destiny and NOT acts. The Scripture saith, "For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate." Whom refers to PERSONS and not ACTS. We know that God knows all things and that nothing happens without His notice, but when speaking of God's purpose and will according to His predestination, it does not refer to our acts but rather to God's acts.

God cares for His people even in nature before they care for any of His ways. The providence of God works in perfect

harmony with the predestination of God, and His other wonderful works.

God's care covers all of our acts, and many times when we think He is not concerned He is divinely protecting us. Often our lives are preserved for the fulfilling of God's plan in our life. We often may say to the discredit of God's goodness that we were just lucky that thus and so happened unto us. While we know that God does not cause us to do evil, and that He has not prefixed our lives and actions, yet let us not forget that He is with us at all times. To own and bless, or to condemn us for our wrongs as disobedient children.

The subject of predestination, like all bible subjects, cannot be exhausted, therefore we will close for this time.

Yours in hope,
C. E. Darity
Macon, Georgia

If my days were untroubled, and my heart always light,
Would I seek for that fair land, where there is no night?
If I never grew weary with the weight of my load,
Would I search for God's peace at the end of the road?
If I never knew sickness and never felt pain,
Would I reach for a hand to help and sustain?
If I walked not with sorrow, and lived without loss,
Would my soul seek sweet solace, at the foot of the cross?
If all I desired was mine day by day,
Would I kneel before God and earnestly pray?
If God sent no winter, to freeze me with fear,
Would I yearn for the warmth of spring every year?
I ask myself this, and the answer is plain,
If my life were all pleasure and I never knew pain,
I'd seek God less often and need Him much less.
For God's sought more often in times of distress,
And no one knows God, or see's Him as plain
As those who have met Him, on the "Pathway of Pain".
We must all have our quota, our portion and share,
Of crosses to carry, and burdens to bear.
And no one knows God, through joy alone,
It takes pain and suffering, to bring us to the Throne.

_SELECTED

MEMORIES OF THE MONTH

By the time you receive this issue of the paper the year will have been spent and a new one begun. The month of December has been full of experiences for us all. May I conclude the year with my December experiences.

The Lord has indeed been gracious to us. We here in Pulaski have enjoyed a good season in the Church. At the Bethel and Pulaski Churches there has been a warm spirit, fellowship with one another, and peace among our brethren. I think of Ps. 133:1, "Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Can you think of any greater blessing? I think not.

After the First Sunday morning service at Pulaski I left for High Point, N. C. to go with Elder Moore to Walnut Cove Church that night.

Elder Ray Rotenizer preached for the Pulaski Church that night and they rejoiced in the service and his being with them again.

When I arrived at Elder Moore's home I was very shocked to find he had suffered a heart attack and was in the hospital. He did improve and was home when I left, but was unable to attend services. Many have asked us for Elder Moore's address, it is as follows—Elder F. R. Moore, Rt. 2, High Point, N. C.

So I proceeded to Walnut Cove with Brother and Sister Martin, and the Lord was very present. I enjoyed my effort to preach and thank God for His manifested presence. I attended this church when a very young boy and it is always good to go back and remember the blessings of God upon me at that time. Many have passed on and others grown old, and many young ones are there now. I was indeed glad to see many teenagers present, young men and women that could have been elsewhere were present. I feel this reflects the teaching and upbringing by their parents, for which I say "thank God."

One of the deacons at Saints Delight Church passed away Saturday night while sitting in his chair. He was Brother Noah Reed. I was asked to take part in his funeral on Monday. Elder Leonard and Elder Langham preached the funeral after prayer and it was very beautifully carried out, brief and simple. The family though grieved, seemed to be comforted

in the sweet promises of God as set forth by their pastor.

Tuesday night we went to Pine Church near Mocksville, N. C. The Lord was good to us, but I felt the church was very sad in the illness and absence of Elder Moore, their pastor. The Lord has blessed them with a young gift, Brother Draper.

Wednesday night we went to No Creek Church where seemingly the Lord was very present in the spirit.

Thursday night there was a large crowd present at Saints Delight Church. The Lord was exceedingly good and much rejoicing among the brethren. All of these services were attended by each Church and covered miles to get there. The Sister Churches supporting and taking a part in weekly services shows the zeal and Love for God's services. May God soon restore Elder Moore to his churches who love him so dearly.

Friday night I attended Elder C. E. Darity's appointment at Mont View Church. The crowd was large and attentive and Brother Darity was blessed to preach a most wonderful discourse. We are looking forward to having Brother Darity with us in the spring.

I hope our brethren will write us for the publication of appointments in advance. Elder Darity was at Roanoke on Thursday night before the Second Sunday and I'm sure some of our people would have gone if they had known. The paper covers a good area so if the churches desire the special appointments published I will be glad to do so if I have the information.

This Monday morning following the 3rd Sunday I have heard from some of our churches, which I would like to share with you. Elder Singleton informs us that they had a most wonderful day at Indian Creek, with one joining the church to be baptized the First Sunday morning. Elder Rotenizer sends word that three united with the church at Pine Grove and were baptized in the weekend services. This is most encouraging to hear of the Lord's blessings on our sister churches. May God continue to bless these churches.

I pray we may all meet together the coming year, on every opportunity, worship, pray, sing and preach together to the glory of our Lord.

I again take this opportunity to express my appreciation to our many friends who have helped us, for without you and your prayers and support we could not carry the load. The radio broadcast and printing charges are large, but if you could read a few letters from the precious saints of God, some who can't go to church meetings because of sickness or age, you would say with me, it is worth it all. May the Lord of all Grace, lead us to more fervently love the truth, and stand for His cause in the earth, this year 1967.

EDITOR

YOU HAVE DISTURBED MY LIFE

"Dear Pastor, to coin a phrase, you have disturbed my life. Were it not for you, I could feel free to travel here, there, hither, thither, and from church to church every Sunday. After all, I'd be going every Sunday; it doesn't matter whether I take my responsibility in one church or not. Were it not for you, I would feel free to miss church every now and then and sleep late, go fishing, or on a day's outing. Were it not for you, I would feel free not to study my bible every night and strive to "show myself approved". Were it not for you, I could feel free to conveniently forget to pray, to thank my God for His kindness and mercy to me, and to ask His continuance of these things upon me. Were it not for you, I could forget to pray that God will bless each service of the church and bless the preacher to teach and lead his congregation. Were it not for you, I would feel free to buzz around the church, chattering and laughing, with no thought to reverence or prayer before the service, or thought about what was said after the service, and I could more readily turn to light talk of illnesses, etc. Were it not for you, I'd feel free to look around, chewing gum, etc., especially when the preaching is not outstanding. Were it not for you, I could neglect to take my bible to church, and I could forget that it is indeed our textbook in the church, our place of learning. Were it not for you, I would enjoy a preacher who has not studied the bible very much just as well as one who has. I would not, were it not for you, be always expecting that the preachers well on duty as well as doctrine, that they be as devoted to their calling as is humanly possible, that they speak out in reproof when necessary, that they strive to feed the flock with the needs of all the members in mind. Thank God for you. I love you for disturbing my life!"

Reprinted from Primitive Monitor

CONSIDERATIONS

"When I consider thy Heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained, what is man that thou art mindful of him...."

I, too, consider the work of God's hand, the vast intricate system of things, and sometimes I am lost in the midst of it. When I consider the wisdom and the glory of a Higher Power in all He has created - the sun, the moon, the stars, the universe, and the earth itself - I am astonished! When I consider the great multitude of beings He has created and allowed to live in the earth I, too, am made to ask, "What is man that thou art mindful of Him?"

Sometimes when I consider all this I feel to be separate and apart from it all - a stranger to myself. What am I that God is mindful of me? One tiny speck of humanity - one grain of sand on the vast sea shore of life. Yet God is mindful of me.....as I write these words I am partaking of all the vital elements around me that are necessary for human survival. All the involuntary processes of life are going on within my body because God has made me thus.

Tonight, somehow, I feel that He has drawn my mind toward Him, because there is a longing to see beyond the limits of self. When I am shut up, as it were, within myself - then it is that I am made to feel that I have departed from the land of the living to dwell among the dead. The earth with her bars lays hold on me. I feel to be both deaf and blind. I cannot see as once I saw. I cannot hear the small, still voice that was so dear to me.

But one promise I behold - He has said He will open fountains within from which His living water will spring forth. What a change it is when we feel that fountain opened up. How wonderful to be able to feel and behold and meditate on something outside the prison walls of this dull clay! How we long for that enlargement of heart and mind that makes the temporal things of life seem unimportant - that makes us know that the Spirit is life and without it we are as dead men! How we desire that the Comforter may come and abide with us constantly and feelingly that we may see God in all and through all. For only when we are made to behold Him in all things are we able to truly live.

When we are pressed downward into the beggerly elements of

the world, when we cannot see beyond our narrow selves, when we feed upon the fleshly lusts of carnality, we are as dead men. We stumble and grope in the darkness and know not which way to turn. We sometimes become indifferent and cold and dull - we cannot even cry to Him for deliverance. But, blessed thought, the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Here is the Spirit again! They that worship God must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth! As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God! Oh, to be led by His Spirit, to be sensible to the impressions that He sends into our hearts!

Oh, taste the Lord, is He not good? Is not His word as honey in our mouths, when the Spirit is with us? Do they not drop as the gentle rain upon the parched earth, to refresh and renew the God given life within? Oh, does He not open fountains in the deep and streams in the desert?

"How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the rivers of thy pleasures.

For with Thee is the fountain of life; in thy light shall we see light."

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June Hawks Goins

DIVINE DRAWING DESIRED

If Thou hast drawn a thousand times,
Oh, draw me, Lord, again;
 Around me cast Thy Spirit's bands,
 And all my powers constrain!
 Draw me from all created good,
 From self, the world, and sin,
 To the dear fountain of Thy blood,
 And make me pure within.
Oh, lead me to Thy mercy-seat!
 Attract me nearer still;
 Draw me, like Mary, to Thy feet,
 To sit and learn Thy will.
 Oh, draw me all the desert through
 With cords of heavenly love,
 And when prepared for going hence,
 Draw me to dwell above!

—Selected

COMMUNICATE ONE WITH ANOTHER

Heb. 13:16__ "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Let us with the help of the Lord consider this most important scripture. The Apostle sets forth first of all the importance of communication among brethren. Surely we all know the joy of fellowship. Yet we find it necessary to remind the Lord's people, "to do good and to communicate," we should all be disturbed when we see a tendency to forsake the assembly of worship. It is with such sacrifices God is well pleased. To do otherwise is to invite the judgment of God upon our church, ourselves, and our brethren. For the pastor of any church to ignore a slackness, and look the other way, is nothing less than, denying the faith, and his call to the ministry of God.

The church of God is to glorify Him who has called them, for here-in is my Father glorified, that ye bring forth much fruit.

The ministry of God desires the flock to enter into all truth. Paul to Timothy, "therefore, I endure all things for the elects sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."

When Brethren forsake the assembly, they always influence someone by their action. How careful we should be in our spiritual lives to remember those who are looking and seeking the truth, lest we cast a stumbling stone in someone's path.

To communicate and to do good, is a sacrifice with which God is well pleased. Eph. 5:19__ "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

Not in the fear of one another, but of Him who called us. The assembly of the saints is pleasing in the sight of God.

Then, "Obey them that have rule over you," this does not imply that your pastor has dictatorial powers over you, but

as your spiritual instructor and watchman, appointed of God, you are to follow him as long as he follows Christ. "1 Cor. 11:1__ Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

Today, we do not compare ourselves to the ability of the apostles, but we should be faithful to the call of the same Almighty God. We are just as duty bound today to our call, as the Prophets or the Apostles, in warning the Church and contending for the truth. God will hold us none the less responsible, for we have the inspired word of God to direct us in His divine service, and ignorance on the churches part, or the Pastor is inexcusable.

Paul did not hesitate to call the churches to remembrance. Paul said, he was free from the blood of all men, and "how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house."

"And submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account." Yes, the pastor must give account. Will it be with joy or grief? I believe every man gives account, stands before God in his conscience, at the judgment seat of Christ, especially the pastor. If anyone knows what a church needs gospelly it must be the man sent of God to feed the flock.

Paul to the Elders of the church at Ephesus, "take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with His own blood."

To take the care of a flock is a serious matter, and one I do not take lightly. Neither should the Church.

I recently exchanged pulpits with one of our local ministers. When I arose to speak, I said, "I am glad to be here, but I cannot take the place of your Pastor. I feel you should love and respect him above all preachers, seeing you feel he was appointed your overseer by the Holy Ghost, and if you should show me more respect than he, I would be very disappointed for he is your watchman." See Isaiah 62:6__

Brethren, do good, and communicate, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Obey the truth, and remember your pastor is your watchman and must give account to God.

EDITOR

CHURCH NEWS

Regular Services

PULASKI PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, 4th Street, in the auditorium of the Women's Club 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Every Sunday night at 7:00 p.m.

BETHEL PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Hiwassee

2nd and 4th Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Elder Roy W. Bowles, pastor

INDIAN CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Indian Valley

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Elder Jethro Harris and Elder Earl Singleton, pastors

PINE GROVE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, 9 miles west of Hillsville on Route #52.

1st and 3rd Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

2nd, 4th, and 5th Sunday nights at 7:00 p.m.

Elder Ray Rotenizer, pastor

LAUREL FORK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Laurel Fork, Va.

4th Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Elder Monroe McGrady, pastor

MILL PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Sutherlin, Virginia

1st and 2nd Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Elder R. F. Kidd, Jr., pastor

Special Services

The Lord willing, and weather permitting the Pulaski Church will have services the 5th Sunday. Elder Avery Land from Dunlap, Tenn. and Elder J. A. Lingham and Brother J. M. Draper from High Point, N. C. will be with us, also several other ministers plan to come. We hope you will come to worship with us and hear these and others not named. If it snows and the roads are clear for driving we will still have services.

Elder Land will be with Laurel Fork Church the 25th, Indian Creek Saturday night before 5th Sunday. Other appointments will be announced on the radio program.

EDITOR