

September 13th, 2012

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

This morning we continue our examination of what we believe as Anglican Christians. Last week we examined Article 16 and the issue of Sin after Baptism and learned that baptism is not an inoculation against a virus known as sin but it is a booster shot allowing us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to fight off sin, receive forgiveness and begin again by the Grace of God.

Today we examine one of the most controversial (and longest) of the articles dealing with the question of Predestination and Election: *"Predestination to Life is the everlasting purpose of God, whereby (before the foundations of the world were laid) he hath constantly decreed by his counsel secret to us, to deliver from curse and damnation those whom he hath chosen in Christ out of mankind. and to bring them by Christ to everlasting salvation, as vessels made to honour. Wherefore, they which be endued with so excellent a benefit of God be called according to God's purpose by his Spirit working in due season: they through Grace obey the calling: they be justified freely: they be made sons of God by adoption: they be made like the image of his only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ: they walk religiously in good works, and at length, by God's mercy, they attain to everlasting felicity.*

*As the godly consideration of Predestination, and our Election in Christ, is full of sweet, pleasant, and unspeakable comfort to godly persons, and such as feel in themselves the working of the Spirit of Christ, mortifying the works of the flesh, and their earthly members, and drawing up their mind to high and heavenly things, as well because it doth greatly establish and confirm their faith of eternal Salvation to be enjoyed through Christ, as because it doth fervently kindle their love towards God: So, for curious and carnal persons, lacking the Spirit of Christ, to have continually before their eyes the sentence of God's Predestination, is a most dangerous downfall, whereby the Devil doth thrust them either into desperation, or into wretchlessness of most unclean living, no less perilous than desperation.*



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***Furthermore, we must receive God's promises in such wise, as they be generally set forth to us in Holy Scripture: and, in our doings, that Will of God is to be followed, which we have expressly declared unto us in the Word of God."***

Most of the controversy has been in peoples desire to look toward poles - in this case between "Calvinism" by which is often meant as an extreme predestination (and honestly unfair to John Calvin) and Arminianism - the theory of Jacobus Arminius - that relies on complete and unfettered Free Will. So what appears to be the case is a statement of opposites - on the one hand God has predestined some for salvation and some for destruction and on the other God allows complete free will to accept or deny God as we so desire. Frankly there are scriptures that point to each of these ideas: ***"This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*** (1 Timothy 2:3-4 ESV) Would seem to argue for Arminianism and ***"And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."*** (Matthew 24:31 ESV) Would seem to argue for Calvinism.

I would argue that the extreme in Arminianism is incorrect for it fails to acknowledge the movement of the Holy Spirit prompting us and moving us. If I could freely choose salvation without any help from the Holy Spirit then salvation would be based on a work that I can accomplish myself and that is not true. Jesus said, ***"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him."*** (John 6:44 ESV) In our salvation God plays the central role not us. Equally, with those who argue for extreme Calvinism seem to say that we have no free will at all, and that is just not true either . . . you'll remember that I spoke a couple of weeks ago about Article 10 on Free Will - we have the ability to reject the Father's Love.

So what do we believe with regards to Predestination and Election? Clearly what Predestination and Election are all about God's Love and Grace. He chooses us even though we have rejected and turned our backs on him. He loves us even though we are callous to his love. He is faithful to us even though we doubt and question him. Already knowing from the beginning of time that we would be unworthy, he choose us to come to him. The fruit of our election is seen in our willingness to repent, our willingness to love, our willingness to sacrifice for His

sake and the sake of the Kingdom of God that is both here and now and yet to come. Remember what St. Paul wrote to the church in Rome, *"And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."* (Romans 8:30 ESV)

So how do we know who is elect and who is not? Thankfully we don't know - that is up to God. We can only seek Him and Love Him and be obedient to his commandment, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28: 19-20 ESV)

Godspeed -

Bishop Menees

[September 2012 Edition of The San Joaquin Anglican](#)

Check this edition of the San Joaquin Anglican for current news of the Diocese!

[Diocesan Calendar](#)

Check the Diocesan Calendar for information on upcoming events such as the Honored Women's Luncheon, 2012 Diocesan Convention, and the Fall Clergy Retreat!

**September 15th** - Diocesan Council @St. James 10:00 a.m.

**September 16th** - Bishop @Christ Church in Lemoore  
Ordination of Dr. John Rim @St. James in Newport Beach 5 p.m.

**September 23rd** - Bishop @St. John's in Petaluma  
Ordination of Kris Rudell @St. John's in Petaluma 10:30 a.m.

**September 29th** - Daughters of the Holy Cross  
Fall Gathering @ St. Mary's in Fresno

**September 30th** - Bishop @ St. Francis in Turlock

**October 5-7th** - Clergy Wives Retreat @ ECCO

**October 12-14th** - Women's Retreat @Potosi Pines  
Sponsored by Jesus the Good Shepherd of Henderson, NV

**October 13th** - Diocesan Altar Guild @10:00 a.m.

**October 14th** - Bishop @St. Mary's in Fresno

**October 27th** - Honored Women's Luncheon

**November 2-3** - Diocesan Convention @ St. James Cathedral

**December 1st** - Deacon's Day @ St. James Cathedral

**December 3-5th** - Clergy Retreat @ECCO

**April 29th - May 1st - Clergy Conference**

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