



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

July 2019

Predestination by train or by plane

*"The Lord is . . . longsuffering to us-ward,
not willing that any should perish, but that ALL should come to repentance."*

2 Peter 3:9

How comforting! To know your fate has been decided and you have no need or obligation or even control to influence how it turns out. It's all set. Your trip to your eternal destination is booked!

This fallacy is quite popular among many who claim to be Christian—despite the fact that it contradicts many things within God's word and even about God Himself.

For example, how could a God that Paul said "*wills ALL men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth*" at the same time condemn many of them before they are even born? Did He will them to be saved or condemned?

Peter also explains that this same God is very patient with us and He is, "*not willing that ANY should perish, but that ALL should come to repentance.*" So how could this God have set the eternal destiny of anyone to hell?

There are a couple of carnally appealing factors for predestination's popularity shown here. These might give us a clue as to what motivated men to wrestled this distorted doctrine out of the scriptures.

With predestination, I do not need to "*come to the knowledge of truth*" nor "*come to repentance*". No need for knowledge or repentance for these "elect" souls—they're saved with or without them. But will a salvation set on auto-pilot really get us to Heaven?

THE PLAN OR THE MAN?

No doubt the Bible speaks of predestination, and 'the elect', and says things like "*chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world*". All true. But it can only be Biblically harmonious in the following way.

We must ask, "*WHAT is predestined?*" The man God created, or the plan he put in place for man long ago? The man or the plan?

Consider the plan of salvation as a passenger train departing a station. All the people get on board willingly, knowing that as long as they remain on the train, it will take them to their destination without fail—they are *predestined*.

However, they do have the option to get off at any station they choose. They are not compelled to stay on the train. They can exercise their *free will* to get off at any station or even jump off in between.

The point being, they are predestined to reach their destination as long as they remain on the train. Because it is the train (the plan) that will without fail reach the final destination, bringing all those who faithfully remain on board.

BY TRAIN OR BY PLANE?

The train is a biblically accurate analogy of predestination.

The *plane* on the other hand, goes up into the air taking with it the cloudy and contradicting concepts of John Calvin—the medieval *and* modern champion of predestination.

Getting on that plane is an act of *blind* faith. (My wife considers it an act of *insanity*. She, by her own free will, chooses not to fly.)

You can't change your mind about flying once you're onboard. As the plane rolls down the runway to take off, you are committed to stay aboard for the whole flight. You cannot ask to be dropped off at the nearest airport. You're going to the destination set—whether you like to or not.

Now, if it was revealed to me that I was going to heaven, no matter what I did, well then, the ‘plane scenario’ explained above would be quite acceptable. But if I was *not* one of ‘the elect’, but rather condemned to hell even before I was born, then I have a real problem on my hands as I have absolutely no means to change that course, according to Calvinists—but not according to God.

NOT EVEN ANGELS

Who are more ‘predestined’ than angels? Are they not in Heaven as we speak? Yes—but only some of them.

Jude explains that *“the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.”*

Not even the angels were predestined beyond their own will. And neither are we. The Psalmist put it perfectly when he said, *“My soul is continually in my hand; yet do I not forget Thy law.”*

“My soul is continually in my hand; yet do I not forget thy law.”

~ Psalms 119:109

ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED?

The doctrine that teaches that one cannot lose their salvation once it is obtained (also referred to as *“once saved always saved”*) goes hand in hand with predestination. It is a *predestination by choice* and is a typical man-made teaching.

This cotton candy Christianity did not come from heaven. It appeals to the flesh, takes the burden of *working out your own salvation* completely off your shoulders. And it dismisses the idea of *taking any yoke upon you*. No need for you to carry it. No need for you to even give it a thought—your salvation is all wrapped up in the pampered package of predestination!

But chasing away all the butterflies, unicorns and rainbows surrounding the toddler-minded believers of predestination and once-save-always-saved is a *big meany* scripture that is not very nice to the doctrine of predestination.

In Hebrews chapter 6, the inspired writer explains how a Christian can tragically lose their salvation—forever. And then he exquisitely describes what those fallen souls understood, what they experienced, and what they walked away from as the justification for their dreadful end.

Hebrews 6:4-6	
KING JAMES 1611	ENGLISH STANDARD 2001
<p>4 For it is impossible for ✧ those who were once enlightened, and ✧ have tasted of the heavenly gift, and ✧ were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,</p> <p>5 and ✧ have tasted the good word of God, and ✧ the powers of the world to come,</p> <p>6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.</p>	<p>4 For it is impossible, in the case of ✧ those who have once been enlightened, ✧ who have tasted the heavenly gift, and ✧ have shared in the Holy Spirit,</p> <p>5 and ✧ have tasted the goodness of the word of God and ✧ the powers of the age to come,</p> <p>6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.</p>

GOD’S GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN

It is a beautiful thought to know that our God, who is so full of goodwill toward men, is doing everything possible to persuade our *free-will spirits* to Heaven. Let’s listen, learn, and turn from our ways to His, as we *willingly* prepare for our departure to our heavenly home.

“For I know the thoughts which I think about you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of torment, so that I shall give you a hope and a good end.” ~ Jeremiah 29:11



Chariton

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)
Location: 15th & Roland, Chariton, Iowa
For information call: Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 535-2931

- Quiet month in Chariton.



July Birthdays

- ★ None

July Anniversaries

- ★ None

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Last Sunday of the month: A social after morning services meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.
Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- **Earl Allen passed away on May 31st.** His children were with him. They miss him greatly, but know he was ready to go on to his reward.
- Glenn Meacham was hospitalized for pneumonia and is now having rehab to get stronger. He is very weak with cancer, and needs our prayers.
- Peg Warren has hurt her knee. It is very swollen and hard to walk on. She will be going to the Dr. this week.
- We want to thank everyone for attending our meeting with John Lee. His exhortations were timely and gave us much to think about.

- Visitors: Tom Warren, Bill, Bryan, Max and Tally Charlier, Nancy and Zoey Evans, Venita James, Valerie Hawthorne, Aiden and Paxon Boozell, Betty Warren, Marla Fetters and Charlie Kelsey-Davis..



July Birthdays

- ★ 2 Kamryn Aswegan
- ★ 16 Jessica Chapman
- ★ 22 Cathy James

July Anniversaries

- None

Fairview

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632
For information call: Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- Visitor Jody Head of Straford, Iowa June 30. Spending the weekend visiting Justin, Tracy and Nathan Head.



July Birthdays

- ★ 17 – Justin Head
- ★ 18 – Connie Miller

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
1st & 3rd Sundays of the month: Basket dinner after morning service meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.
Location: 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, IA on Hwy. 92)
For information call: Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

NOTICE: First four Sundays in July (of five) will be potluck dinner after morning services. Meeting back for song, questions, and Bible study at 1 pm.

- Bill and Wendy Hounsom's new granddaughter, Amelia Rose, was born May 30 weighed 7 lbs. 10 ounces. Parents Drew and Anna.
- Dick and Phyllis Bown spent some time in Springfield, MO, with their son Roger and his family.
- Fred and Marlene Bown's family gathered on June 15th to help them celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.
- Rodney and Alena Ingle with their family attended the Midwest Bible Campout.

Those who are sick:

- Marlene S. Bown spent a few days in the hospital. She will see a lung specialist July 2.
- Wendy Hounsom traveled back to Chicago for more evaluations.
- Mary Proudfit is gaining strength and attending church.



July Birthdays

- ★ Alena Ingle July 3
- ★ Rodney Ingle July 5
- ★ Tanner George July 30

July Anniversaries

- None

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Every Sunday: Potluck with afternoon service (Every Sunday — Dec 2 thru Feb 24)
Location: 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa
Website: pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org
For information call: Lowell Hermon (515) 989-0727, Mike Warner (515) 967-4529

- **Mike & Shirley Warner's son, Steve Thompson, had a PET scan in Iowa City on June 25th—the PET scan was all clear! Hallelujah!**
 He has to have this every three months to make sure Ewing Sarcoma cancer does not return. His blood levels are still low and may be a year before he gets back to normal, if he ever does. He also sees a blood doctor in Iowa City every three months. He is much better but battles intestinal problems and body weakness. Thank you so much for all the prayers, but please continue to remember him!

- Margaret Franklin's grandson, Jaquon Clemons, was shot in Arizona while driving a Uber vehicle. He is in his 20's and still recovering. Please pray for his recovery and healing.
- Allison George has been suffering with bad migraine headaches this past month. Much to her family's surprise, MRI showed normal brain activity (haha).
- Nora Lee Ingle fell about a week ago while getting out of the car onto cement. Her daughter Cindy and Mark Morris came to visit and help her out

for a week. She is doing okay, but recovering from aches and bruises.

- Linda Oldham has had a bad cough.
- Suzanne Harvey is feeling better! Bruce has been having back problems.
- Alonzo & Joyce Jones' neighbor, Mike Robinson, has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer; please pray for him as he copes with this news.
- Please continue to pray for Mary Alice Fillman as she struggles with several health issues; and for her husband Bud as he has not been feeling well either.
- Several have been gone this past month for some vacation time:
- Randy & Theresa Ingle family, Ryan & Jamie Ingle family and Joyce Ingle traveled to Williamstown, Kentucky to visit the life-size Noah's Ark. A wonderful experience for all.
- Alonzo & Joyce Jones also traveled to Nashville.
- Marty & Lisa Williamson visited Nathan in Kansas City.
- Jason & Theresa Brady were in Illinois visiting friends.

- Nick Hermon & Kayley Zimmerman were in Kansas City this past weekend. Kayley was in Iowa for her bridal shower on June 22nd; but returning to her home in Colorado for rest of the summer to prepare for her wedding to Nick on August 10th.

Thank you all who participated in and helped with VBS with Evangelist John Lee. We had a good turnout and wonderful edification for both children and adults.



July Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| ★ 3 Jack Conner | ★ 4 Clay Felice |
| ★ 5 Michele Zinnel | ★ 8 Julene Pappan |
| ★ 12 Steve Thompson | ★ 13 Sydney Brand |
| ★ 14 Mike Warner | ★ 16 Cindy Brady |
| ★ 29 Diamond Blackman | ★ 29 Kelly George |
| ★ 30 Ginger Hermon | ★ 31 David Ingle |

Anniversaries

- ★ 7 Jason & Theresa Brady
- ★ 18 Miles & Kelsey Wood
- ★ 24 Ryan & Jamie Ingle

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.

Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.

Website: vandaliacoc.com

For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

- **We were happy to have news of the baptism of Emma Ingle recently.**
- Also announced was **the engagement of Lucas Ingle and Shelby Greene.** Congratulations to all!
- Marvin Cummings (brother of Bob) recently passed away in Florida.
- Quite a number of our members attended the camp-out in Eminence, MO.
- Richard Goode spent a few days in the hospital undergoing tests.

- Melda Ingle is slowly improving while having physical therapy, but is not able to be at home yet.
- Among our visitors this past month were: Vyrlee Covington from Arkansan, Ila Ingle and Wanda of Newton, Logan Porter, Ryan Zinnel, Christana and Chelsey Haws of Louisville, KY., and Valerie Burkman.
- Brittney Dowdy and children and Lynnette Dowdy visited family in Indiana.
- Doug Fiorentin and Bruce Fiorentin and Blake visited family in Indiana on Father's Day.

- Gavin Burkman underwent surgery on his wrist and is improving.
- Devon and Erin Ingle and daughters vacationed at Clear Lake.
- Matt and Sarah Clark and Ethan, and Nancy Clark enjoyed a few days in St. Louis, MO where they took in a Cardinals game and a trip up in the Gateway Arch.



July Birthdays

- ★ 1 Sarah Clark
- ★ 1 Tonya Guthrie
- ★ 24 Drew Cummings
- ★ 25 Tyrell Klein
- ★ 26 Robert Cummings

July Anniversaries

- ★ 10 Matt & Sara Clark
- ★ 14 Bruce & Kelsey Fiorentin

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14



"The righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God."

Ecclesiastes 9:1

