

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

OUR GUARANTEE OF WELL-BEING

C. D. Cole

Romans 8:31, "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

INTRODUCTION: Is there any guarantee of eternal blessedness for anybody? Can believers be sure of everlasting felicity? Are Christians standing on a rock, or sinking in quicksand? If there is certainty and security, what is the ground of it? "God for us" is our text's reply.

Our text is the natural and inevitable conclusion of what has been before us in preceding verses. If God has a foreknown people whom He predestinated to be made like unto Christ; if He called these people, and justified them, and glorified them, the conclusion is inevitable that He is for them. Such all-out aid for a sinful and helpless people is abundant evidence that God is for them. During World War II, did anybody doubt that the U.S. government was for England? If they did, we will remind them of the all-out aid we gave her as evidenced in the lend-

lease bill, and the seven million dollars appropriation.

I. GOD IS FOR HIS PEOPLE.

A. This makes their eternal blessedness sure. Our all-out aid to Britain may not have guaranteed their victory, but God's being for

us is an absolute guarantee of success in our helplessness as the victim of sin and Satan. "If God be for us, who can be against us?", which means that if God is for us no enemy can prevail against us. Our victory over sin is certain if God is for us.

B. Who are His people?

MISSION BIBLE CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 3-5

It's nearing time for our Fifth Annual Mission Bible Conference. Pastor Al Gormley and the Bryan Station Baptist Church extend an invitation to all. Each year the Lord has blessed our conference with good preaching and fellowship.

We are anxiously awaiting this time of fellowship with God's people! Make plans to attend!

In context and other verses, they are referred to as the foreknown. Romans 11:1, "I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin." The foreknown are the people of His eternal choice, those upon whom He set His heart to love and whom He purposed to save. The foreknown were the people whose salvation was purposed in eternity past begun in time and completed in eternity future.

II. HOW GOD IS FOR HIS PEOPLE. Augustine, in his notes upon preceding verses, says God is for us, according to the preceding words of the chapter, in four senses. He is for us, for he hath predestinated us; He is for us, for He hath called us; He is for us, for He hath justified us; He is for us, for He hath virtually glorified us, and will actually do so. Can it be doubted that God is for a people for whom He has done all these things? Can it be doubted that our government is for England in the face of what it has already done and has promised to do? The proof of the pudding is in the eating and the proof that God is for a person is in what He has done for that person. If we are really for somebody we do that somebody good. Not in talk but in deeds. It is alright to talk about being for a person if talk is backed up with deeds. God backs His talk with deeds. How is God for us?

A. God is for us in predestination, which means that back in eternity, those upon whom He set his choice and his love, He predestinated or determined that they should be conformed to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. Here is evidence that He is for us. A determination that we should be

like His Son is proof that He is for us. Here is the ground of security. If God has predestinated I should be like His Son, will not that predestinating decree be accomplished. If God has determined it, who shall disannul it? If God has said it shall be; who is he that shall stay His hand or thwart his purpose? Can the hand of Omnipotence fail? Can the will of the Immutable change? Until God becomes as weak as man, and until God becomes as fickle as man, His purposes shall be wrung out in action. There are difficulties in the way, but what are difficulties to the Most High? Take a case in point. The Lord promised Abraham that his seed should sojourn in a strange land and then be brought into the land of Canaan. Look at them in their bondage--see, amid the smoke of the brick-kilns, Israel toils in Egypt. How was God's decree to be fulfilled? When God makes bare His arm, you shall see and wonder. Pharaoh and his mighty army holds captive those who God determined to set free. There they go, led like sheep by the hands of Moses and Aaron. They cross desert and come to the Red Sea. The mighty stream rolls before them and Pharaoh's army is hard on their heels; but God hath determined to bring them into the promised land, therefore the sea must divide and Pharaoh must be drowned in its depths. They are in the wilderness; famine shall destroy them. No; the heavens drop with manna. Thirst shall scorch them. No; the rock follows them with its living stream. The serpents shall bite them. Yes, but the brazen serpent is lifted up and whosoever looks shall live. The Amalekites shall attack them, but while Moses holds up his hands, Joshua put the foe to flight. Then

they come to Jordan, final barrier to Canaan: the priests walk through dry-shod and all the people march after them. Then the Canaanites oppose their entrance with chariots of iron and mighty men of war, but not a man could stand against them until they possessed the land. So beloved, if God determines the salvation of a sinner, neither mortal nor infernal power shall prevail against him. Far be it from us to preach a defeated God; the imperial decree from the throne of heaven shall not be treated as waste paper.

B. God is for us in that He has called us. "Moreover whom He did predestinate them He also called." Much stress is laid upon calling in the Bible. The Bible distinguishes between two calls; the outward call of the Gospel which men resist and the outward call of the Gospel accompanied by the power of the Holy Spirit which is effectual because it is invincible. Effectual call is the first internal operation of grace on those predestinated.

C. God is for us in justification. "Whom He called them he also justified." It was the divine call that brought us to Christ and by faith in Him we are justified, pronounced righteous on the ground of His obedience unto death. We are not righteous by our own record, but by His record.

D. God is for us in glorification. Whom he justified them he also glorified. In one sense already glorified, for he hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. We do not sit there in person, but in our representative who is

already glorified. And we will be glorified actually when He brings our vile body out of the grave and fashions it like unto His glorious body.

III. PROOF THAT GOD IS FOR US. The gift of His Son. The inevitable conclusion is that if God gave up His Son to die for us, He will with Him give us all things. Surely God will not make the greatest gift without making all other gifts necessary for our eternal happiness. Surely the blood of Christ was not shed in vain.

CONCLUSION: The passage we are studying gives us God's program. Doctor E. B. Hatcher (in an excerpt from one of his articles) says, "Let us make God's program our starting point."

EXHORTATION: Make your calling and election sure.



A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Make me a wise mother, O Lord. Keep me calm and give me patience to bear the small irritating things in life's daily routine.

Give me tolerance and understanding to bridge the gulf which exist between my generation and that of my children.

Help me to bear silently the physical and mental pain of those whom I love by reminding me that only through suffering may they understand the distress of others.

Let me be not too ready to guide my children's stumbling feet, but allow me to be ever near to bind up their bruises.

Give me a sense of humor that I may laugh with them but never at them.

Let me refrain from preaching with words. Keep me from forcing their confidences, but give a sympathetic ear when they seek me out.

Help me to teach them that life must not be filled with compromises, but it should be replete with victories.

Keep my children close to me, O Lord, though miles may separate us. And let thy light so shine upon me that they, too, will see thy glory.

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The Baptist Voice College

In the autumn of 1980 the Wilmington Baptist mission was started out of the authority of the Bryan Station Baptist Church--with seven in attendance. The mission organized August 29, 1981 with 47 members and today she averages 180 to 190 in attendance.

In the autumn of 1982 the church began a Bible Institute, "The Baptist Voice Institute," enrolling 14. It has increased to 16 full time students and 14 part time students. This fall quarter the school begins under the title the "Baptist Voice College" (non-accredited, unapproved by the state) and she will confer four degrees. The quarter begins September 22, 23, with night classes and available day classes. Some of the courses that will be offered will be:

Youth Evangelism

By Dan Ferrell M.A.

Ecclesiology

By Tom Ross B.S.

New Testament Survey

By Ron Davidson M.A.

Basics of Sign Language

By Juanita Ferrell

Pastoral Theology I

By Dan Ferrell

and many more.

The school now has two musical groups that are ready to travel and bless local churches in Godly music, testimonies, and sermons (if needed) by eight different preachers. And to represent our exciting school. They are "The Baptist Voice Quartet," and "Baptist Voice Chorale."

As the pastor of the Wilmington Baptist Temple I have plenty to do without overseeing a Bible College! Yet the Lord has definitely led me in this great endeavor and I believe that our young men and women are worth all of our sacrifice.

Perhaps the Lord will lead you and your church to support this school "BVC" with your prayers and free-will offerings. If so the money will be used to erect a modest building and fray the cost of necessary bills.

If you know of someone who is looking for a Baptist College that stands without apology on the authority of our King James Version Bible, the doctrines of grace, the pre-millennial and imminant return of our Lord, the landmark view of the Church and Bride, old fashion standards on dress and social behavior, and active in soul winning and missions--then please recommend the Baptist Voice College!

God bless you,
Dan Ferrell

ESSENTIALS FOR A GREAT CHURCH

1. A regenerated church membership.
2. A praying membership.
3. A working membership.
4. A cooperating membership.
5. A membership with a vision and the faith to see that vision become reality.
6. A membership where everybody is somebody.
7. A membership where nobody tries to be number one but everybody is willing to work for the common good.

