

“The Church of the Firstborn”

Predestination has been almost entirely connected to salvation alone. However, all the instructions, exhortations, warnings, the ‘if’s’, and so on, are directed, not toward salvation (“by grace through faith”), but toward purpose... Divine purpose, that being the governing of everything. “... the called according to His purpose”. Romans 8:28

It is focused on making the calling and election sure. “For those God foreknew, He also predestined (foreordained) to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.” Romans 8:29

Grace (divine enablement) is far more wonderful in relation to the glorious Purpose than it is in basic salvation. Works and merits do not enter in to this relationship. The greater the glory the greater the grace.

To this “Church” belongs an eternal and heavenly kind. This is what is called “partnership in a heavenly calling” (Hebrews 3:1), and “the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). “The Church of the Firstborn” (Hebrews 12:23).

The Church, in relation to her function in the ages to come, belongs the elect (“the spirits of righteous men made perfect”).

“Walk worthy of the calling wherewith you were called.” (Ephesians 4:1)

“Give diligence to make your calling and election sure.” (2 Peter 1:10)

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