

University of Notre Dame
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YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

"GOD KNOWS ALL THINGS. HE KNOWS WHETHER OR NOT I AM GOING TO SAVE MY SOUL. WHAT PROFIT THEREFORE IS IN IT FOR ME TO CONTINUE STRUGGLING AGAINST SIN AND TEMPTATION? NO MATTER WHAT I DO THERE IS A PREDETERMINED FATE AWAITING ME, EITHER AN ETERNITY OF HELL OR AN ETERNITY OF HEAVEN."

Reply: 1. It is a good thing to be afraid that one might go to Hell. That is the beginning of wisdom. It means that one is working out his salvation with fear and trembling--a recipe God Himself gave for avoiding Hell. On the other hand it is heretical and ridiculous to say that God has pigeon-holed anyone for Hell, that the cards are stacked against us. No man is labelled for eternal loss no matter how he lives his life.

2. God wills the salvation of all men. That's what Christ hanging and dying upon the Cross means. That's what the Book of Wisdom means (Chapters X & XI) "Thou hast mercy on all because Thou canst do all things, and overlookest the sins of men for the sake of repentance". And don't forget to re-read the last phrase! There's no sense to repentance if conversion from sin and improved relations with God haven't the power to change your status from possible Hell to possible Heaven. God can't be for repentance and predestination, too! Again, you read the Book of Wisdom: "Thou lovest all the things which Thou hast made." On His own work, if God wants ANYTHING, it is the salvation of all--for He made all men good in the beginning and His hope is that they will always remain so. If you have been pigeon-holed by God, what sense is there to the words of Ezechial? "As I live, sayeth the Lord God, I desire not the death of the sinner, but that the wicked turn from his state and live." And St. Peter reminds us: "The Lord dealeth patiently for your sake, not willing that any should perish, but that all should return to Penance."

3. Anyone familiar with the life of Christ knows the purpose of His coming to earth. "I am come, not to call the just, but sinners to penance....those who are well need not the physician." Surely if it is true that God wills the salvation of all mankind, it is equally true that He wants you to be saved according to your nature--that is, as a free and responsible being. If you, as a free being, reject the Blood of Christ shed for you on the Cross (and applied by obedience to the Commandments and use of the Sacraments), and if you of your own free will select the other alternative of hell, then that's your doing, your suicide and your funeral. The unalterable fact remains that the Son of God became man for you, and died for you. If you are lost, it shall not be because God has predetermined you to eternal damnation but because you lost yourself--because you failed to apply the merits of Christ's death on Calvary. That's where the Commandments and Sacraments come in!

4. God does know all things. He foresees all things. Long before you or I was on the scene here He foreknew and foresaw, by His Infinite Knowledge, whether or not you or I would cooperate with His graces; whether you or I would choose by our own free choice heaven or hell. And on that basis, He foresaw your place in eternity--but He did not forecause it. A giant airliner crashes into the ocean. It carries crew and passengers to death and eternity. Before the flight, I knew there was something wrong with the mechanism of the craft. I foresaw the danger, I even wired the airline officials and informed the pilot. My warnings were unheeded. The plane tumbled into the sea. Am I to blame for the death of those travellers? Did I cause their death? That's the story with God--and predestination--and you. God foresees not only the evil that I may freely and deliberately do, but He foresees ALSO the many daily struggles against temptation; he foresees the many acts of charity done to my neighbor in His name; He foresees the Communions, the Novenas, Masses & Rosaries accumulated to my credit down through the weeks and months and years. Never forget that!

Prayers: (Deceased): Sister of Br. Columbanus, CSC; mother of Geo. Duffy (ex-'28); grandmother of Bob Hofstetter; aunt of Art Frericks (D); mother-in-law of R. Sovaske (E); friend of Jim Jemenein (OC); uncle of Dick Hidding. Ill: John H. Fendrich (b'n'factor of Univ.); grandfather of Vin. Post (A1); cousin of Bob Fink (Cav); uncle of Dick Hidding (OC); Mr. Arnold Blum; Rev. R.E. Nolan; friend of Larry Donovan (D).

DO YOU PRAY FOR THESE INTENTIONS???