

Time And Chance

INTRODUCTION;

I.) Prayer and Sovereignty

Ephesians 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ; According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love; having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself according to the good pleasure of His will,

A.) Does any event occur without divine involvement?

B.) Is God the cause behind every event that occurs in your life?

1.) Sometime things are allowed to flow in a natural chain of events.

(Luke 13:1-5 NIV)

(1) Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. (2) Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? (3) I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. (4) Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them - do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? (5) I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

2.) God gives you opportunity;

(Luke 13:6-9 NIV)

(6) Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. (7) So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' (8) "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. (9) If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it

down.' "

3.) God desires your success;

(2Peter 3:9 KJV)

(9) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

4.) Generally speaking, God does not judge individuals in time;

(Matthew 13:24-30 KJV)

(24) Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

(25) But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. (26) But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

(27) So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? (28) He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

I.) A Study of the word CHANCE

(ECCLESIASTES 9:11 NIV)

I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all. (NIV)

1.) Notice the context in which this statement is made;

(Ecclesiastes 9:1-5 NIV)

(1) So I reflected on all this and concluded that the righteous and the wise and what they do are in God's hands, but no man knows whether love or hate awaits him. (2) All share a common destiny - the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the clean and the unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not. As it is with the good man, so with the sinner; as it is with those who take oaths, so with those who are afraid to take them. (3) This is the evil in everything that happens under the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of men, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live, and afterward they join the dead. (4)

Anyone who is among the living has hope - even a live dog is better off than a dead lion! (5) For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even the memory of them is forgotten.

2.) Is that a true statement?

(Ecclesiastes 9:7 NIV)

(7) Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for it is now that God favors what you do.

3.) Was Paul quoting and disputing this as a false claim?

(1Corinthians 15:32 NIV)

(32) If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

4.) One thing is true, ALL DIED

(1Corinthians 15:22 NIV)

(22) For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

(Hebrews 9:27 KJV)

(27) ...it is appointed unto men once to die,

5.) But there is one part of the equation Solomon omitted from his formula for living.

He either did not know it or did not chose to believe it;

a.) Man dies for a reason

(Romans 5:12 KJV)

(12) Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

b.) There is more to life than physical life

(Hebrews 9:27 KJV)

(27) but after this the judgment:

(1Corinthians 15:19 KJV)

(19) If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men

most miserable.

A.) What part does CHANCE play in our lives?

B.) Some things are product of divine intervention

1.) God took action when provoked by Israel's sin;

DEUTERONOMY 31:29

For I know that after my death you are sure to become utterly corrupt and to turn from the way I have commanded you. In days to come, disaster will fall upon you because you will do evil in the sight of the Lord and provoke him to anger by what your hands have made."
(NIV)

2.) Some of Israel's woes seem to be that God stopped helping them and simply left them on their own

(DEUTERONOMY 31:17)

On that day I will become angry with them and forsake them; I will hide my face from them, and they will be destroyed. Many disasters and difficulties will come upon them, and on that day they will ask, 'Have not these disasters come upon us because our God is not with us?' (NIV)

C.) Some things are left to chance;

1.) Ruth's (King David's grandmother) romantic courtship with Boaz was not destiny, or was it?

RUTH 2:3)

So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out (by chance KJV), she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech. (NIV)

a.) It was not fate, but an opportunity;

b.) She had to take advantage of the opportunity presented to her.

2.) It was not divine providence that brought the priest to the injured traveler in Jesus' parable;

(LUKE 10:31)

A priest happened (by chance KJV) to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. (NIV)

a.) Spirit DID bring Stephen to the Eunuch

b.) Spirit DID bring Ananius to Saul of Tarsus

D.) How Can We Know The Difference??

1.) IS THERE A TEST?

1SAMUEL 6:9

but keep watching it. If it goes up to its own territory, toward Beth Shemesh, then the Lord has brought this great disaster on us. But if it does not, then we will know that it was not his hand that struck us and that it happened to us by chance." (NIV)

2.) Serenity Prayer

E.) Is any of our destiny left up to us?

1.) Solomon did not seem to think so;

ECC 2:14

The wise man has eyes in his head, while the fool walks in the darkness; but I came to realize that the same fate overtakes them both. 15 Then I thought in my heart, "The fate of the fool will overtake me also. What then do I gain by being wise?" I said in my heart, "This too is meaningless." (NIV)

19 Man's fate is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; man has no advantage over the animal. Everything is meaningless. (NIV)

Is all of life left to chance?

1CO 15:37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. (NIV)

II.) MURPHY'S LAW

A.) If it can, it will!

1.) "Anything that can go wrong, will."

2.) Proof of intelligence behind evil;

III.) OPPORTUNITY

A.) Luck Defined;

1.) Where preparation meets opportunity

2.) Genius is 1% inspiration & 99% perspiration

B.) If YOU don't, it won't!

1.) "If you don't MAKE it happen, it won't."

IV.) The effect of prayer on this formula

Does God answer prayer?

CONCLUSION

Perfect Illustration of this principle

"Jesus sat a child in their midst"

Does a parent play any role in the destiny of a child??

Young persons choice of a spouse

A person's choice of friends