

The Path to Happiness

Divine Principle Lecture Series

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Lecture 17

The Predestination of God's Will and of Human Beings

SLIDE 1

Welcome back to our series of presentations on the Unification Principle. I'm your host, Dr. Tyler Hendricks. In our last session, we stated that God wants to bring everyone, as one great family, into His realm of absolute true love, the kingdom of heaven. Now, you might ask, to what extent is this all guaranteed? Does God plan everything? Or is everything up to me... which means, it might not work out, and nothing is guaranteed? This is the topic of predestination, and we'll talk about it in this session.

SLIDE 2

Christians are divided between belief in free will and predestination. All agree that the power of salvation comes from God, but they have different points of view about that.

→ Free will thinking—once called Arminianism—claims that God equally provides his power for everyone, and it's up to us what to do with it.

→ Predestination, on the other hand, claims that God chooses who will be saved and who will not, and nothing we do can change that.

SLIDE 3

People such as

→ Augustine,

→ Luther and

→ Calvin believed in predestination.

→ They argued that God elects some people for salvation while He decides not to elect others, and that

→ God's election is entirely just. This means that the restoration providence only depends on God.

SLIDE 4

Calvin's successor, Theodore Beza, supported supralapsarianism, which says

→ that God decided everything before the Fall, who would be saved and who would go to hell.

→ It's hard to believe, but it's Christian doctrine, and so the churches become weak because it doesn't make sense to us.

SLIDE 5

Unification Principle clarifies that there are two points: 1. the predestination of God's Will and, 2. the predestination of the way in which God's Will is fulfilled.

SLIDE 6

God's Will is

→ to accomplish the purpose of creation, which is the purpose of restoration.

→ God determined when He created human beings that they accomplish the purpose of creation right then and there.

→ When God could not fulfill His Will due to us falling, He determined to fulfill His Will once more through the providence of restoration and since then has worked to accomplish it.

SLIDE 7

→ God is the absolute being, unique, eternal and unchanging; therefore,

→ the purpose of His creation and His Will for the providence of restoration, the goal of which is the accomplishment of the purpose of creation, must also be absolute, unique, eternal and unchanging.

→ Likewise, God's predestination of His Will must also be absolute. So, from this point of view, it is predestined that God's will of perfect love in the family, going on forever with joy in heaven and on earth, will happen.

SLIDE 8

How about the predestination of the way in which God's Will is fulfilled? The principles, the natural laws by which things work, are set. But God's purpose of creation can be realized only when human beings complete their portion of responsibility.

→ Although God's Will to realize this purpose through the providence of restoration is absolute and beyond human influence,

→ its fulfillment can change because it is subject to free will and depends upon whether or not human beings complete their responsibility.

SLIDE 9

Therefore, God's Will to realize the purpose of the providence of restoration is absolute, but

→ its fulfillment is conditional.

→ God predestines the process of its accomplishment conditionally, contingent upon the five percent responsibility of the central figure, which must be completed

→ in addition to the ninety-five percent responsibility of God. The portion of five percent is used to indicate that the human portion of responsibility is extremely small when compared to God's portion of responsibility.

→ Yet for human beings, this five percent is equivalent to one hundred percent of our effort.

SLIDE 10

Hence, God can't absolutely predestine human beings.

→ We can become the ideal people God has foreordained us to be only

→ when we complete our responsibility.

SLIDE 11

Therefore, God does not predestine in absolute terms what kind of people they actually turn out to be.

SLIDE 12

Even though God may have a mission planned for you, you have to do your five percent responsibility before you can complete it and fulfill God's Will. If you don't, you can't become the person God has purposed you to be. For this reason, God's providence for restoration centered on figures in the biblical history has been prolonged over and over. Also, we have co-creativity to affect the outcome, to put our own self into it.

SLIDE 13

Now, what about the biblical passages that say that God controls everything and we have nothing to do with it? For example:

→ Those whom He predestined He also called; and those whom He called He also justified; and those whom He justified He also glorified. (Rom 8:29-30)

→ I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. (Rom 9:15-16)

SLIDE 14

Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for beauty and another for menial use? (Rom 9:21)

→ God loved Jacob and hated Esau even when they were still inside their mother's womb and had not done anything good or evil. God said that the elder will serve the younger. (Rom 9:10-13)

SLIDE 15

These verses are often interpreted to mean that everything in an individual's life—prosperity and decline, happiness and misery, salvation and damnation, as well as the rise and fall of nations—comes to pass exactly as predestined by God.

→ These verses were written to emphasize God as the subject of the providence in the history of restoration, which is very important! But the doctrine of absolute and complete predestination, which is believed even in our present day, takes it too far, and ignores the true relationship between God's portion of responsibility and the human portion of responsibility in the fulfillment of the purpose of the providence of restoration.

SLIDE 16

We have to read the Bible comprehensively.

→ If the Fall were predestined, God didn't have to warn the first human ancestors not to eat of the fruit in order to prevent their Fall (Gen 2:17), and

→ there would be no reason for God to grieve over fallen human beings, who were acting in accordance with His predestination (Gen 6:6).

SLIDE 17

If salvation were predestined, He wouldn't have to say that whoever believes in Christ shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

→ He wouldn't say, "ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (Matt 7:7)"

SLIDE 18

If human beings' birth, old age, sickness, and death were predestined by God,

→ He wouldn't tell us to pray for our sick brothers (James 5:14).

→ If everything in our lives were determined by inevitable fate, as predestined by God, no human endeavor, including prayer, evangelism or charity, can add anything more to God's providence of restoration.

SLIDE 19

We have to keep in mind that God's providence of restoration can be accomplished only when our responsibility is combined with God's responsibility.

→ We need cooperation between God and human beings in the relationship of giving and receiving. The fact that there is human beings' responsibility is a great blessing. God put us in the position of His fellow worker!

→ Therefore, we have to try to fulfill our responsibility in the providence of restoration with gratitude. When we do so, we can liberate God from His suffering heart, because God created us to have a living relationship with Him, and He can finally turn from grief to joy.

SLIDE 20

We see that God DOES have a plan for each of our lives, and

→ we see that by following principle and living for others, we will fulfill that plan. But you might ask, centered on what?

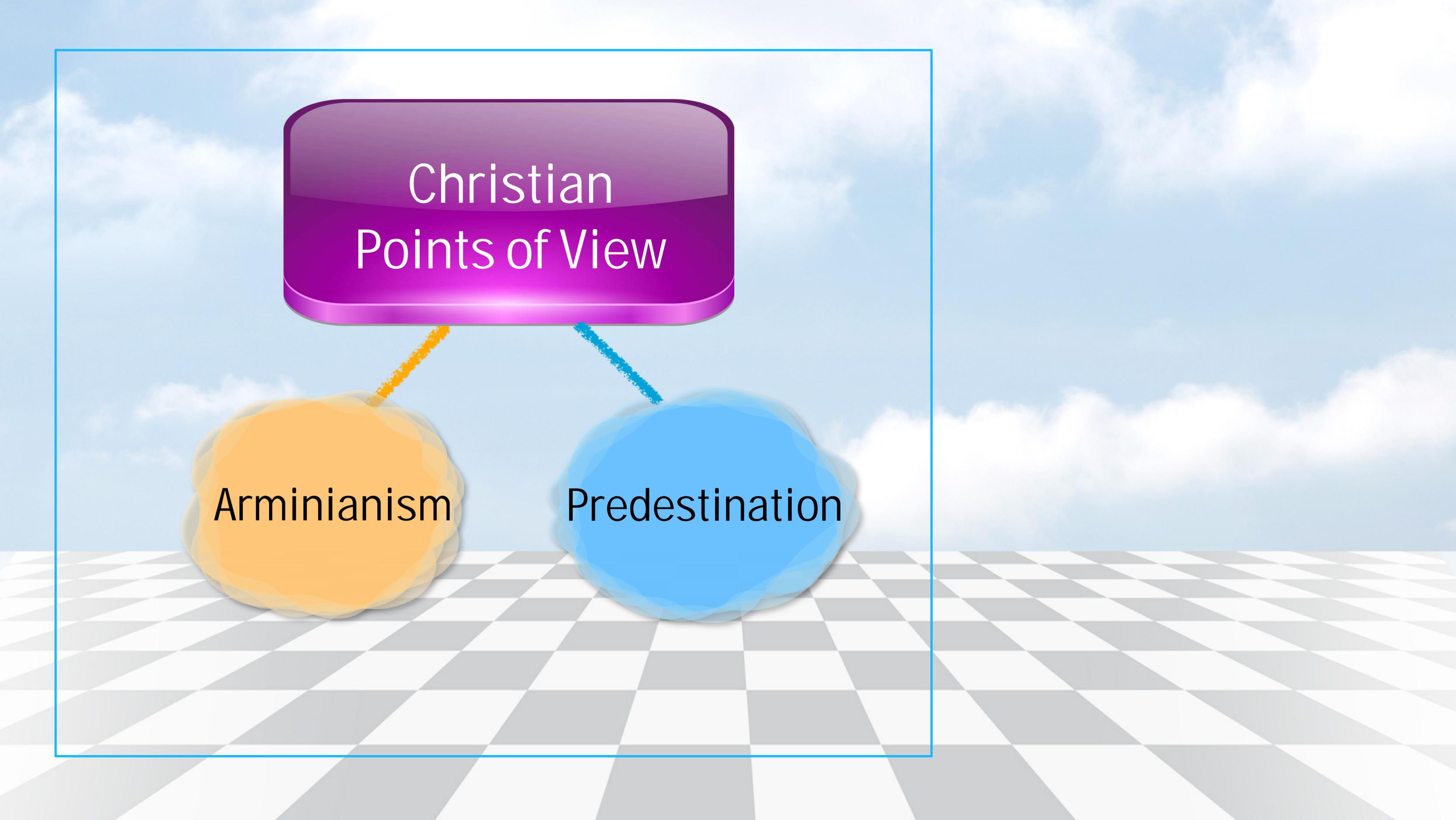
→ Yes, I want a great marriage and family, but how does that make me, well, like Jesus? I thought Jesus was, ... God himself, and I'm not that! And Jesus wasn't married, so am I supposed to be married? Our next session will cover these really important questions. I pray these words may really move your heart. Thanks for listening.

The Predestination of God's
Will and of Human Beings

Christian Points of View

Arminianism

Predestination



Predestination



Augustine



Martin Luther



John Calvin

God freely elects some people for salvation while

He decides not to elect others.

God's election is entirely just.

Supralapsarianism



Theodore Beza

Before the Fall, God decided who would be saved and who would go to hell.

Christianity becomes weak because that just doesn't make sense.

Unification Principle



Sun Myung Moon

1. The predestination of God's Will
2. The predestination of the way God's will is fulfilled.

To accomplish
the purpose of
creation

Original
human beings

Fallen
human beings



God's Will

God

Predestined



Absolute, unique,
eternal, unchanging



Absolute, unique,
eternal, unchanging

It is **predestined** that God's will of perfect love
in the family, going on forever with joy in
heaven and on earth, will happen.

**The predestination of the way in
which God's Will is fulfilled.**

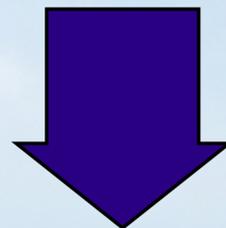
The predestination of God's Will is absolute.

But its fulfillment can change
because it is subject to free will
and depends upon whether or not
human beings complete
their responsibility.

God's purpose is absolute

95%

Its fulfillment is conditional



Responsibility of the
100% of our effort
central figure.

5%

How we turn
out to be

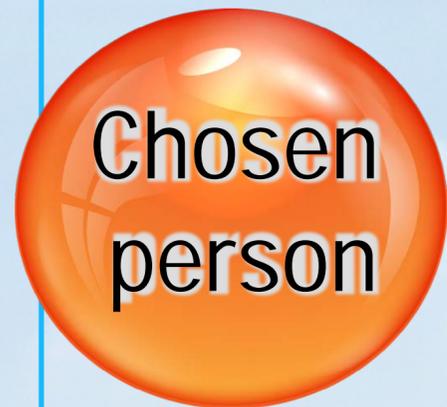
God's portion
of
responsibility
95%

+

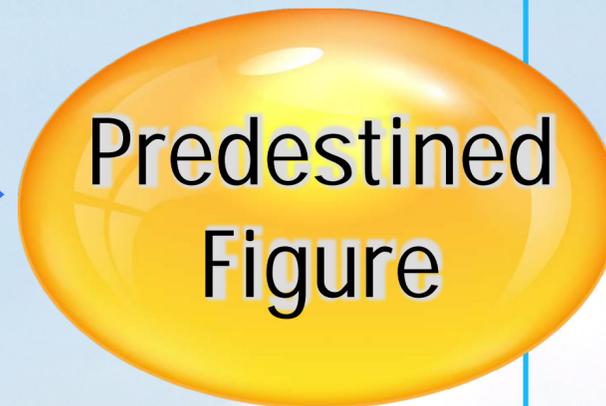
Human
portion of
responsibility
5%

**Predestination of
Human Beings:**

Absolute

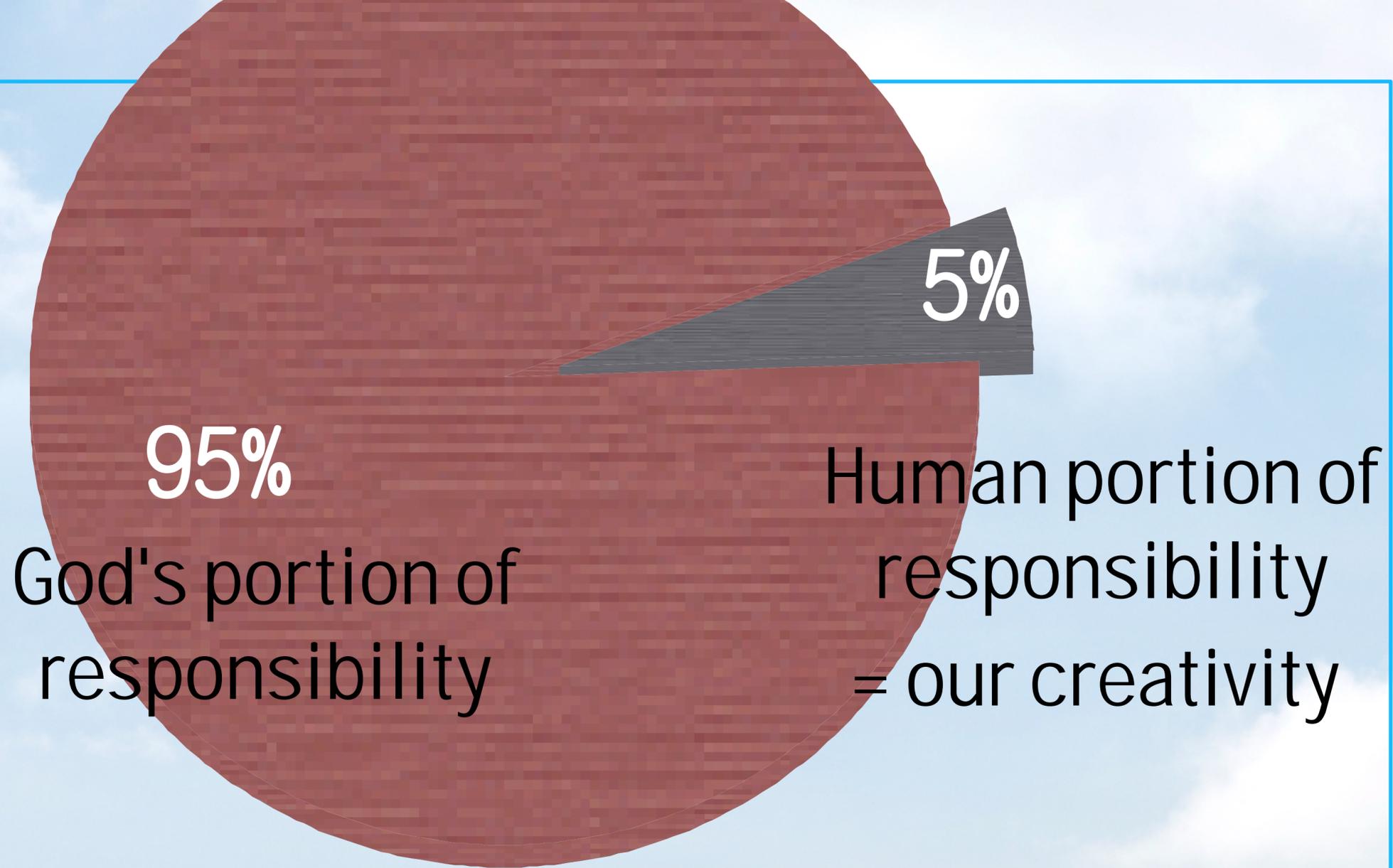


Completion of
responsibility



**Predestination of
Human Beings :**

Conditional



God's providence of salvation centered on figures in the biblical history has been prolonged over and over.

Biblical Verses Supporting the Theory of Predestination

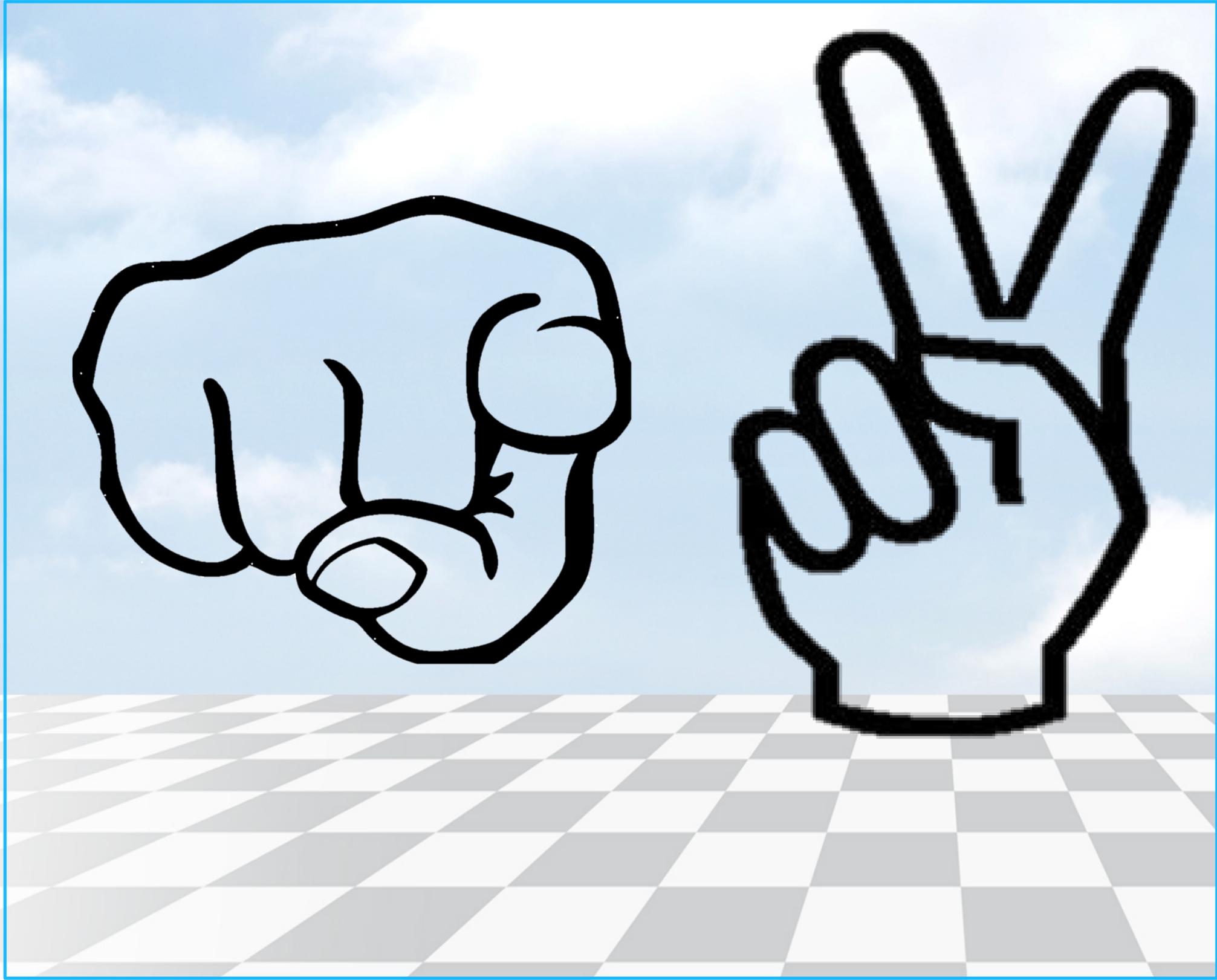
Those whom He predestined He also called; and those whom He called He also justified; and those whom He justified He also glorified. Rom. 8:29-30

**I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I
have compassion. Rom 8:6**

Biblical Verses Supporting the Theory of Predestination

Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for beauty and another for menial use? Rom 9:21

God loved Jacob and hated Esau and announced their destiny, saying, "the elder will serve the younger." Rom 9:11-13



Read the Bible comprehensively

No need to warn,
but God said, "Do
not eat."

Gen. 2:17

No need to grieve,
but "God was
grieved that he had
made man"

Gen. 6:6

If **salvation** is predestined, no
reason to say:

“whoever believes in Christ shall not perish
but have eternal life” - John 3:16

'Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you
will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.'

- Matthew 7:7

If **birth and death** is
predestined by God, why does
the Bible say:

We should pray for the sick brothers.
James 5:14

Prayers, witnessing, charity activities
would be meaningless.

Providence of
Salvation

God's portion of responsibility



Our portion of responsibility

God's providence is fulfilled through the giving and receiving between God and us.

Therefore, we have to try to fulfill our responsibility in the providence of restoration with gratitude.

God does have a plan.



By living for others, we will fulfill that plan

Live like Jesus? Marriage? Family?