

It Was Determined

The Book of Acts
Midweek Sermon
Pastor Carl Toti
December 1, 2021

MAIN IDEA: Some voyages in life are determined against our wishes but according to God's will!

Paul's Final Voyage

Acts 27:1 (KJV)

And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto one named Julius, a centurion of Augustus' band.

Acts 27:2 (NLT)

2 Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was also with us. We left on a ship whose home port was Adramyttium on the northwest coast of the province of Asia; it was scheduled to make several stops at ports along the coast of the province.

Determined: to be decided

Determinism: In philosophy it is the doctrine that all events, including human action, are ultimately determined by causes external to the will.

-<https://www.denverphilosophos.com/philosophers-menu/free-will-fate-determinism>

Hyper-Calvinism: It was a system of theology, or a system of the doctrines of God, man and grace, which was framed to exalt the honor and glory of God and did so at the expense of minimizing the moral and spiritual responsibility of sinners to God.

-Nettles, T. J. (2006). *By His Grace and for His Glory: A Historical, Theological and Practical Study of the Doctrines of Grace in Baptist Life* (Revised and Expanded 20th Anniversary Edition, p. 424). Cape Coral, FL: Founders Press.

ERRORS OF DETERMINISM

1. DETERMINISM IS _____

Determinists believe self-determinists are wrong and ought to change their view. But "ought to change" implies they are free to change, which is contrary to determinism.

2. DETERMINISM IS _____

C. S. Lewis argued that naturalistic, complete determinism is irrational. For determinism to be true, there would have to be a rational basis for their thought. But if determinism is true, then there is no

rational basis for thought, since all is determined by non-rational forces. So, if determinism claims to be true, then it must be false.

3. DETERMINISM _____ FREE WILL

If God is the cause of all human actions, then human beings are not morally responsible. One is only responsible for a choice if there was free will to avoid making it. All responsibility implies the ability to respond, either on one's own or by God's grace.

4. DETERMINISM NEGATES HUMAN _____

Determinism destroys human responsibility.

Determinism renders praise and blame meaningless.

5. DETERMINISTS ARE _____

Determinism leads to fatalism. If everything is determined beyond our control, then why do good and avoid evil?

MAIN IDEA: Our choices do matter and have consequences. Cause and effect is very real. What a man sows that shall he reap!

Proverbs 19:21 (TLB)

21 Man proposes, but God disposes.

God only intervenes when the rebellion of man threatens the sovereign purposes of God.

Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:5-7 (NIV)

5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 6 The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

Abimelek's Sin of Ignorance

Genesis 20:3 (NIV)

But God came to Abimelek in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman."

Psalms 37:23 (NKJV)

23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

Are you doing what God wants you to do?

Where God wants you to do it?

And how God wants you to do it?

Acts 27:3 (KJV)

3 And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself.

Acts 27:4–8 (NLT)

4 Putting out to sea from there, we encountered strong headwinds that made it difficult to keep the ship on course, so we sailed north of Cyprus between the island and the mainland. 5 Keeping to the open sea, we passed along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, landing at Myra, in the province of Lycia. 6 There the commanding officer found an Egyptian ship from Alexandria that was bound for Italy, and he put us on board. 7 We had several days of slow sailing, and after great difficulty we finally neared Cnidus. But the wind was against us, so we sailed across to Crete and along the sheltered coast of the island, past the cape of Salmone. 8 We struggled along the coast with great difficulty and finally arrived at Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea.

ANSWERS:

1. ABSURD
2. IRRATIONAL
3. VIOLATES
4. RESPONSIBILITY
5. FATALIST