

Ephesians 2013-071 and 072

E. The Panorama of The Divine Initiative of Antecedent Grace.

1. The purpose of the divine initiative of antecedent grace in the Church Age is found in [2 Thes 1:12](#), “in order that the person of our Lord Jesus may be glorified by means of you, and you by means of Him on the basis of the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ.”

a. Our Lord Jesus Christ is glorified when the Church Age believer responds to the divine initiative of antecedent grace. The function of the spiritual skills and the execution of the protocol plan of God for the Church is the major concept. You being glorified by our Lord is the inevitable result of the divine initiative of antecedent grace with historical impact of the invisible heroes, the pivot of mature believers. The conveyance of escrow blessings for the eternal state at the Judgment Seat of Christ also fulfills the principle.

b. We are glorifying eternal God when we glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Life becomes very meaningful when you realize there is a grace way of glorifying God. The purpose of the divine initiative of antecedent grace was to give you a life of meaning, purpose, and definition, a life where you can have the most wonderful things and glorify God by means of them.

c. Grace orientation is the basis for getting ready to develop in your life a personal sense of destiny.

2. Common and efficacious grace are related to the divine initiative of antecedent grace in eternity past, [2 Tim 1:9](#), “[Our Lord] who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not on the basis of our works, but on the basis of His very own purpose and grace which has been given to us for our benefit by Christ Jesus in eternity past.”

a. At the moment of faith in Christ, there is a tremendous response to the divine initiative of antecedent grace in eternity past. Faith in Christ is a response to antecedent grace of eternity past. The forty things you receive at the instant of faith in Christ are also a response to antecedent grace in eternity past. The new believer enters immediately into post-salvation grace. Grace is God’s initiative, not ours. Our initiative is the response of total helplessness and humility.

b. The call of God is God’s invitation to believe in Christ. This is also a part of the divine initiative of antecedent grace.

c. No matter how you look at it, grace is always the work of God, the divine initiative. Grace and human works are mutually exclusive. You cannot do anything, you are helpless. God has invited us to a life on the basis of grace which was given to us from eternity past. You have the greatest individual responsibility God ever assigned to any people, but it is on the basis of grace.

d. God's grace was given to us (PRO CHRONOS plus the ablative plural of separation from AIONIOS) "before the times in eternity." This idiom means "in eternity past" or "before the beginning of time."

(1) In the plan and purpose of God, grace and human works cannot and do not coexist. Grace and legalism do not mix in time.

(2) Therefore, God's grace and human works are mutually exclusive.

(3) Grace excludes all forms of human works, human merit, and human resources.

(4) Where human merit and human works are inserted into God's plan erroneously by misinformed or ignorant believers, it is no longer God's plan, will, or purpose for the believer.

(5) The believer cannot glorify God through the function of his personality, merit, resources, works, or any gimmick or system of gimmicks which he may develop.

(6) God can only be glorified by what God has done for mankind in grace, more grace, and greater grace.

3. The divine initiative of antecedent grace in eternity past and in time is taught in [Eph 1:6](#), "resulting in the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has graced us out in the Beloved [Jesus Christ]." The glory of God is seen in His essence and in the function of His grace. Each Church Age believer has a portfolio of invisible assets prepared by the grace of God in eternity past to be used in human history.

4. The divine initiative of eschatological grace in the eternal future is taught in [Eph 2:7](#), "that He might show us in the coming ages the surpassing riches of His grace in generosity toward us in the sphere of Christ Jesus [i.e., in union with Christ]."

a. The coming ages include the millennium and the eternal state. Every winner-believer knows that he will have the surpassing riches of Christ's grace in the future. In eternity past, God provided everything we need through antecedent grace to attain the surpassing riches of His grace for the eternal future. We could not

do anything to obtain the surpassing riches of His grace. God blesses you because of what He did for you in eternity past and in time.

b. What is more important: you and anything you do or your portfolio of invisible assets? There is nothing you can attain in this world that is worth that fantastic grace God has provided for you in eternity past. There is no attainment in the world that is worth distraction from Bible doctrine.

5. The divine initiative of antecedent grace is related to the pivot of mature believers in [Rom 11:1-6](#), "I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? Definitely not! For I also am an Israelite, out from the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says about Elijah, when he complained to God about Israel? 'Lord, they have killed Your prophets, they have torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.' But what is the divine answer to him? 'I have kept for Myself seven thousand honorable men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.' Therefore, in this same way also in this present time, there has come to be a remnant on the basis of the election from grace. And if it is because of grace [and it is], it is no longer from the source of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace."

a. God has not rejected the Jew. God has demanded a spiritual birth, so that there is neither Jew nor Gentile. Paul begins this passage by saying that the physical descent of natural birth is worthless for salvation. The transmission of divine promises and imputation of divine blessing are made as a result of being born again. A spiritual birth must take place. To inherit the unconditional covenants to Israel, the Jew must be born again through faith alone in Christ alone.

b. The omniscience of God knew in eternity past all the knowable of history, including the volition of His people, Israel. God knew each Jewish believer who would live in the Church Age and did not reject them. No believer, Jew or Gentile, is ever rejected by God.

c. Paul now uses Elijah as an illustration. Elijah was complaining to the supreme court of heaven about the negative volition of Israel. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was about to be destroyed as a client nation to God. Elijah was involved in arrogant self-absorption by thinking he alone is left as a believer in Israel.

d. Elijah said HUPOLEIPO (I am the only one left). God said to

Elijah KATALEIPO (I have kept for Myself). There were still seven thousand people in the land of Israel who were part of God's pivot.

(1) One of the results of the divine initiative is that God always has a remnant of the elect of grace, a pivot of believers in any client nation. The only reason we are still here as a client nation is because we have invisible heroes, unknown except in heaven. They are using the spiritual skills to execute the protocol plan of God for the Church.

(2) The remnant according to the election of grace, i.e., the pivot, shrinks when the arrogance skills replace grace. Grace and works cannot coexist in the plan of God. Grace and works are mutually exclusive. Grace excludes the arrogance skills and the arrogance skills exclude grace. Where the arrogance skills prevail among believers, the pivot shrinks and the client nation to God is eventually destroyed by the supreme court of heaven.

(3) As a result of this pivot of mature believers, the client nation of Northern Israel would continue for 150 more years (B.C. 871 – B.C. 721). Elijah and Elisha turned the client nation around. God continued to bless that nation only because of who and what those believers were.

e. In the same way, there is a pivot at the time of Paul's letter, just as there is a pivot right now in client nation America. As goes the believer, so goes the client nation. Our security as a nation does not depend on the decisions of the President, Congress, or any other politician. Our security depends on the antecedent grace of God directed toward the pivot of mature believers. The pivot of Israel established precedence for the pivot of mature believers in Gentile client nations to God in the Church Age.

f. Grace always has been and always will be the basis for the existence of the pivot of mature believers. Grace and works cannot coexist in the plan of God. Grace and works are mutually exclusive. Grace excludes the arrogance skills (self-justification, self-deception, self-absorption). When arrogance skills prevail among believers, the pivot shrinks and the client nation is judged by the supreme court of heaven. Where grace prevails through the function of the spiritual skills, the pivot expands and the client nation to God is blessed by association with those mature believers. One ounce of legalism or activism destroys grace as the only basis for executing the protocol plan of God, [Gal 5:9](#).

6. The divine initiative of antecedent grace is related to occupation

with the Person of Christ, [Eph 6:24](#), “Grace be with all believers who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptibility.”

a. It is possible to have a superficial love for God which is strictly corruptible. The only love that counts is an incorruptible love. Believers with corruptible love do not have the ten problem solving devices on the FLOT line of their soul.

b. Incorruptibility is spiritual capacity righteousness, which belongs to the believer who executes the protocol plan of God through the spiritual skills provided through the divine initiative of antecedent grace in eternity past.

7. The divine initiative of antecedent grace is related to the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher. [Eph 3:7-8](#), “Through which gospel, I have become a minister on the basis of the gift from the grace of God which was given to me on the basis of the function of His power. To me, the very least of all saints, this grace has been given, to preach to the Gentiles the inscrutable wealth of Christ.”

a. The function of all spiritual gifts are based on the function of divine power.

b. Invisible God plus invisible power plus invisible assets equals invisible heroes.

F. Grace Related to Human And Spiritual Freedom.

1. Human Freedom.

a. Human freedom is the sphere of operation for human volition. We operate within the framework of our own volition. In order to resolve the prehistoric angelic conflict, the sovereignty of God and free will of man coexist in human history. Mankind has one thing in common with the angels—human volition. Freedom is the true environment for the function of human volition.

b. There are two categories of human freedom: establishment freedom for both the unbeliever and believer and spiritual freedom for the Church Age believer only. Spiritual freedom is designed to give every believer equal privilege and opportunity to execute God’s plan, will, and purpose for the Church Age.

(1) Freedom under the laws of divine establishment includes the following factors.

(a) Volition. The function of human volition in the soul, the state of human volition as the uncaused cause of human modus operandi. Freedom is the legitimate self-determination, exemption from necessity apart from human consent or human self-fulfillment, and exemption from arbitrary control and exploitation from others.

(b) Privacy. Privacy is the environment for the establishment of freedom.

(c) Property. Property is the right to possess, to enjoy, to benefit, or to make profit from acquired things in life. Ownership of tangible things is a part of the concept of property. Profit is a good word in the Bible. Profit is the basis for true economy. Socialism is evil because it destroys human freedom and self-determination. Property is defined as the sum total of one's own possessions, tangible and intangible. Under freedom, the individual has the right to make a profit as well as the right to possession of personal and real property.

(d) Authority. Authority under the laws of divine establishment includes personal volition, marriage, family, and government as divine institutions. Parental authority is the fifth commandment and is a part of this concept. When you have authority without freedom, that is tyranny. When you have freedom without authority, that is anarchy. The word of God does not subscribe to either tyranny or anarchy.

(e) Life. The laws of divine establishment recognize the sacredness of privacy, property, and life as the means of the function of human freedom.

c. Human freedom cannot exist or be effective apart from human responsibility. The freedom of a nation is no more effective than the morality, the virtue, the integrity, and the sense of responsibility among its citizens.

d. The enemies of freedom under the laws of divine establishment are twofold.

(1) The internal enemy is criminality. The eighth commandment (You will not steal) recognizes the sacredness of property. The sixth commandment (You will not commit homicide) recognizes the sacredness of human life. Law enforcement is that part of establishment which is designed to apprehend and punish crime. Once a person is convicted of a crime, they have no rights until they have served their sentence. Capital punishment is authorized by the Scriptures, [Gen 9:5-6](#); [Mt 26:52](#); [Rom 13:3-4](#); [Ex 21:12](#); [Num 35:30](#).

(2) The external enemies of a nation are other nations who are power oriented and function under some system of tyranny against nations who are freedom oriented. Part of establishment law is protection of freedom oriented nations from power oriented nations

through the biblical principle of freedom through military victory.

2. Spiritual Freedom.

a. [Ps 119:45](#), “And I will walk in freedom, For I seek Your doctrines.” This is the function of spiritual freedom in perception of doctrine.

b. [Jn 8:32](#), “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” This is a reference to spiritual freedom.

c. [Gal 5:1](#), “It is for freedom that Christ has set you free. Keep standing fast in that freedom and do not become entangled again in the yoke of slavery.” The yoke of slavery is faith plus works for salvation, the arrogance skills, legalism and activism, the distractions of human viewpoint and false doctrine.

d. Grace is involved in our spiritual freedom, [2 Cor 4:17](#), “The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.” Spiritual freedom is the environment for equality of all believers to execute the protocol plan of God. The filling of the Spirit provides spiritual freedom and equal opportunity to utilize the divine initiative of antecedent grace for the fulfillment of the protocol plan of God for the Church.

e. [2 Cor 3:18](#), “But we all, with an unveiled face looking into a mirror to produce a reflection—the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory [the divine initiative of antecedent grace in time in which the humanity of Christ established precedence for the Christian way of life] to glory [the utilization of the spiritual skills to execute the protocol plan of God], as it were from the Spirit of the Lord.”

(1) The filling of the Spirit is the unveiled face. The unveiled face is the positive believer approaching the word of God through the filling of the Holy Spirit.

(2) The mirror is analogous to the word of God.

(3) The “Spirit of the Lord” is a reference to the deity of the Holy Spirit.

3. Summary.

a. Human freedom for all mankind is based on the laws of divine establishment. Human freedom recognizes the sacredness of privacy, property, and life. Human freedom recognizes self-determination as a function of human volition in the soul. Human freedom emphasizes the individual as taking responsibility for his own decisions. Human freedom is authority oriented, so that under establishment authority the principle of live and let live becomes

operational.

b. Spiritual freedom is for believers only. The function of spiritual freedom is based on cognition and utilization of the three spiritual skills (the filling of the Spirit, metabolized doctrine in the stream of consciousness, and ten problem solving devices deployed on the FLOT line of your soul). Spiritual freedom is the basis for equal opportunity for every Church Age believer to execute the protocol plan of God. Spiritual freedom is destroyed by the function of the arrogance skills.

c. Establishment freedom is the heritage of physical birth. Spiritual freedom is the heritage of regeneration. Spiritual freedom can function with or without establishment freedom, because establishment freedom or lack of it is related to public modus operandi in a nation or its equivalent, while spiritual freedom is invisible, related to the filling of the Holy Spirit. Establishment freedom is based on human merit and virtue both in thinking and action, illustrated by the function of law enforcement and military establishment. Spiritual freedom is non-meritorious because it is related to the divine initiative of antecedent grace both in eternity past and the divine initiative of eschatological grace at the Rapture and the eternal state.

G. Conclusion And Summary.

1. God's grace initiates the believer's grace orientation response. It takes grace orientation to respond to God's grace initiative.

2. The divine initiative of grace occurs in two spheres:

a. Antecedent grace.

(1) In eternity past—your very own portfolio of invisible assets.

(2) In time—precedence for believer grace orientation response from the function of the humanity of Christ in Hypostatic Union.

b. Eschatological grace, which includes:

(1) Dying grace.

(2) Resurrection grace.

(3) The eternal state.

3. Grace orientation as a problem solving device, when it is deployed on the FLOT line of the soul, can only respond to the divine initiative of antecedent grace or the divine initiative of eschatological grace in a non-meritorious manner. God initiates grace and has from eternity past. We respond to grace when we have the proper problem solving device of grace orientation on the FLOT line of the soul. This is when the grace response becomes

effective.

4. Grace orientation responds to the divine initiative of grace through the function of the three spiritual skills (the filling of the Holy Spirit, the metabolization of doctrine, plus execution of the protocol plan of God). This is what results in maximum response to both antecedent grace and eschatological grace.
5. Grace orientation as a problem solving device only functions in relationship to Operation Z.
6. There can be no believer response to the divine initiative of antecedent or eschatological grace apart from maximum metabolized doctrine circulating in the seven compartments of the stream of consciousness.
7. Therefore, grace orientation is defined as the response of epignosis doctrine to the divine initiative of antecedent grace and eschatological grace.
8. Grace orientation is defined as the correct and accurate response to and application of both antecedent grace and eschatological grace.
9. This implies that grace orientation not only teaches the believer how to respond to the divine initiative of grace but how to apply God's perfect and matchless grace to every circumstance of life. The filling of the Holy Spirit plus human I.Q. equals spiritual I.Q. plus Operation Z equals grace orientation.
10. In the grace policy of God, the divine initiative always precedes the grace response. The grace response occurs in at least six different categories: common grace, efficacious grace, post-salvation or living grace, dying grace, resurrection grace, and eternal state grace.
11. The divine initiative of grace always provides equal opportunity for the grace response of mankind. Man cannot create equal opportunity; only God can do so. This means that all members of the human race have equal opportunity for eternal salvation through faith alone in Christ alone. This means that all members of the body of Christ have equal privilege and equal opportunity to execute the protocol plan of God for the Church.
 - a. In the divine decrees, we have the sovereignty of God and free will of man coexisting in human history. The order of the divine decrees or lapsarianism is:
 - (1) God decreed the creation of all mankind with free will in a state of perfection. This was done to resolve the prehistoric angelic

conflict and to bring many sons into glory, as per [Eph 2:10](#).

(2) God decreed to permit the fall of mankind through the function of his own volition, mankind's own self-determination. This duplicates Satan's fall and the subsequent existence of all fallen angels.

(3) God decreed to provide eternal salvation for all mankind under the doctrine of unlimited atonement, [2 Cor 5:14-15](#); [Heb 2:9](#); [1 Tim 2:6](#). Christ died as a substitute for everyone without exception.

(4) God decreed to leave the reprobate (those who remain in spiritual death because they reject Christ as Savior) to their just condemnation, [Jn 3:18](#), [36](#). There are two opportunities under equal opportunity for regeneration—God consciousness and gospel hearing.

(5) God decreed simultaneously in eternity past both election and foreordination or predestination for the believer only. Both election and predestination are a part of the divine initiative of antecedent grace. Election and predestination provide equal privilege and equal opportunity from the divine initiative of antecedent grace for every Church Age believer to execute the protocol plan of God.

(a) There are three elections in history: the election of true Israel, [Rom 9:6](#), the election of the humanity of Christ in the dispensation of the Hypostatic Union, and the election of the Church as the body of Christ in the royal family of God.

(b) Election is the expression of the sovereignty of God who wills the highest and best for every Church Age believer. Therefore, equal privilege and equal opportunity to execute the protocol plan of God. Under the equal privilege of election, every believer is a priest of the royal priesthood. Our Lord is the royal high priest as a king-priest, Heb 7. Under the equal opportunity of election, every believer has equal opportunity because of logistical grace. Our royal priesthood and logistical grace are a part of antecedent grace.

(c) Predestination is the grace provision of the sovereignty of God for every believer in every dispensation. Through His grace policy, the sovereignty of God has provided everything necessary to sustain every believer in every dispensation of human history. In the Church Age, every believer has equal privilege and equal opportunity under predestination for the execution of the protocol plan of God. The equal privilege under predestination is the baptism of the Holy Spirit and subsequent positional sanctification.

The equal opportunity under predestination is our very own portfolio of logistical grace.

(6) God decreed to apply salvation to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ; hence, the decree to save the elect through faith alone in Christ alone, [Eph 2:8-9](#).

b. The decrees provide the equality factor. The filling of the Holy Spirit plus human I.Q. equals spiritual I.Q. plus metabolization of doctrine equals the equality factor for every believer. There is no racial issue, cultural issue, sexual issue, social issue, or economic issue.

c. The divine initiative of antecedent grace of eternity past has provided equal privilege and equal opportunity for every Church Age believer to execute the protocol plan of God. There is no inequality in the filling of the Spirit or in Operation Z (the metabolization of doctrine). Inequality occurs with the tremendous variation of thinking skills among members of the human race. However, God the Holy Spirit converts human I.Q. into spiritual I.Q., creating a system of equality for the perception and application of Bible doctrine. The six thinking skills are:

(1) Comprehension. It is the function of the filling of the Spirit to take the inequalities of human comprehension and provide equality of all believers for doctrinal perception. The filling of the Spirit converts the inequality of I.Q. into equality.

(2) Memory. The equality is provided by the inculcation and repetition of teaching. The rate of learning must exceed the rate of forgetting doctrine. The process of learning Bible doctrine combines the first two thinking skills, and the result is conditioned thought pathways or memory pathways of the soul. The rate of learning is the rate at which the believer develops new memories, printing more and more doctrine on the neurons of the brain. The rate of learning must always exceed the rate of forgetting.

(a) From metabolized doctrine circulating in the seven compartments of the stream of consciousness through the filling of the Holy Spirit, ten problem solving devices are formed and deployed on the FLOT line of your soul.

(b) These problem solving devices perform eight missions:

i. The prevention of the outside pressures of adversity from becoming the inside pressure of stress in the soul.

ii. The application of metabolized doctrine to post-salvation experience, which includes the establishment of your spiritual

values.

- iii. Spiritual environment of the soul, including divine viewpoint.
 - iv. Self-motivation for the function of your very own spiritual life
 - v. The basis for victory over the four great battles in the soul: the battle of stress in the soul, the battle of sin in the soul, the battle of false doctrine in the soul, the battle of defense mechanisms in the soul.
 - vi. The mastery and the utilization of the problem solving devices, causing the elect angels to stand up and cheer.
 - vii. The execution of the protocol plan of God for the Church—the attainment of spiritual maturity.
 - viii. The invisible impact of the invisible hero, the source of the greatest happiness in this life.
- (c) As the number of doctrinal memories increase, the number of divine viewpoint thoughts also increase. This results in the formation of doctrinal rationales. These doctrinal rationales are applied to our experience through the function of the faith-rest drill. The same faith-rest drill that claims the promises of God takes these doctrinal rationales and applies them to our experience.
- (d) When the rate of learning exceeds the rate of forgetting, the believer advances in his spiritual life under the function of the spiritual skills. When the rate of forgetting exceeds the rate of learning, there is a rapid decline in the function of your very own spiritual life.
- (3) Problem Solving. Problem solving devices are a grace gift from God which replace human viewpoint solutions, such as: psychology, defense mechanisms, and other things that remove the believer from the reality of God's grace.
- (4) Decision Making. Decision making is precisely correct procedure in the utilization of doctrinal facts and relating them to the function of the problem solving devices.
- (5) Creativity. This is originality in thought and expression of thought. For the believer, this is the recovery of Bible doctrine from the written page of the word of God. Many doctrines have been rejected, suppressed, distorted, twisted, so that they often remain obscured for many generations. Creativity includes the effective and powerful presentation of each truth through the filling of the Holy Spirit.
- (6) Awareness. Awareness is the application of metabolized doctrine through the function of the ten problem solving devices

deployed on the FLOT line of the soul. Awareness is having knowledge in the stream of consciousness, being informed, knowledgeable, and alert about things around you. Awareness wades through all the pressures and opposition to Bible doctrine with concentration, self-motivation, accurate spiritual values to continue advancing toward the objective of spiritual maturity and the glorification of God. Awareness becomes alert and operational, when the believer has a personal sense of destiny. Awareness rejects self-defense mechanisms. Awareness is a part of true happiness in life. Awareness is spiritual perspective of life. Awareness has to do with your thoughtfulness of others and relating to others apart from the function of the sin nature.