

Pastor's Pen

"Mark of the Beast"

There have been numerous post on social media about the mark of the beast that goes something like this, lockdowns around the world will be lifted but only for those immune to the coronavirus. You will have to be tested to see if you've had the disease or be given a vaccine. Once that's happened, you'll be issued a certificate, identity card, or tattoo. To travel and work freely, you'll have to show this proof that you're not infectious. In this way, millions will be tricked into receiving some kind of Mark. Could this be the "Mark of the Beast"? Pastor Ronnie Hampton of the New Vision Community Church in Shreveport, Louisiana put it this way: "They're gonna come up with a vaccine and in that vaccine everybody is gonna have to take it ... and inside of that vaccine there's going to be some type of electronic computer device that's gonna put some type of chip in you and maybe even have some mood, mind-altering circumstances. And they're saying that the chip would be the Mark of the Beast."

The mark of the beast is some kind of seal that followers of the Antichrist will take in allegiance to him. The prophecy of Revelation 13:16-17 says that the image of the beast "forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name."

We don't know what this mark will look like. A while ago, some thought it was a stamp or tattoo of the number 666. More recently, people thought it might be a bar code. Now a popular speculation is that the mark of the beast will be an implanted microchip that allows people to access their digital currency. But we honestly have no way of knowing what form the mark of the beast will take. Some people fear that they have already taken the mark of the beast. The problem is the mark of the beast does not exist yet. The Mark of the beast does not occur until the anti-Christ comes into power during the period

of the Great Tribulation.

Another reason believers in Jesus Christ should not fear getting the mark of the beast is that all believers who are alive before the tribulation will be raptured to be with Jesus and meet Him the air, Paul writes, *"For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord."* (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

So, there is nothing anyone can do today to get, take, or receive the mark of the beast. But, more important is that if you are a believer in Jesus Christ you belong to Him forever. When you were dead in your sins God called you and made you alive in Him. You were dead men and dead women destined to Hell (Eph. 2:4-8). How can anyone take from you your salvation, what God gave you no one can take, not Satan, not any sin you commit (John 10:28-30). Let me say to you with complete confidence if you belong to Him you have not and will never take the mark of the beast.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"In youth, in middle age, and now after many battles,
I find nothing in me but corruption."

-John Knox

Grace Gems

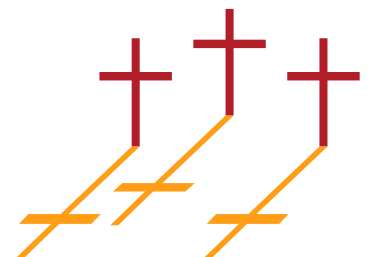
Divine Predestination- by Don Fortner

"Them he also did predestinate." -- Romans 8:29

Do not be afraid of predestination. And do not be ashamed of it. We are predestinarians, because we believe the Bible; and predestination is a Bible doctrine, full of comfort and joy for God's saints.

Predestination is God's infallible purpose of grace regarding his elect whom he foreknew. It simply means that our eternal destiny was settled by God, and infallibly secured by him before the world began. In sovereign predestination, God eternally and immutably determined WHO he would save, HOW he would save them, WHEN he would save them, and WHERE he would save them. Then he sovereignly arranged everything necessary, both to accomplish their salvation and to bring them to glory at last, perfectly conformed to the image of his dear Son.

Predestination marked the house into which grace would come, paved the road by which grace would travel to that house, set the time when grace would enter, and guaranteed that grace actually would come and enter in at the appointed time! Nothing was left to chance, blind fate, luck, or man's imaginary free will! Predestination is no more and no less than God Almighty having arranged from eternity everything necessary to bring his elect children into heaven in the perfection of everlasting life.



Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

Discipleship Class
With Brian Patrick
Sunday Morning @ 8am



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study

Mondays 9:30am | Thursdays 6:30PM
Women's Book Study



Job Study

Wednesdays @ 7PM
Teaching Series



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and forgot to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address.



Children's Studies

Pastor Jamie with Caleb Capps Preschool
Video
Youth Study Wednesdays @6:30pm



Service Times

Sunday Service 8:30am & 10:30 AM
Children's Church @10:30am

Giving from service on 05.10.20

General Offering	5,356.60
Building Fund	539.60
Uganda	100.00
Benevolence	135.00
Total	6,131.20
Attendance ...	112 present
	43 online connections
	56 cars

Got Questions

- Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
- AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
- Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
- Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
- Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
- Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
- Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
- Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
- Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
- Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
- Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
- Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
- Security-security@ghbcva.org



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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

May 17, 2020

