

## ACCORDING TO GOD'S PURPOSE

It has always been amazing to me that so many people hold to a doctrine that says untold millions of those that God wanted to save will be eternally lost. What about the fact that the angel of God said Christ would save His people from their sins? What about the fact that He said, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me"? What about the fact that He said He would give eternal life to as many as His Father had given Him? What about the fact that He said He would lose none of them, but would raise them up again at the last day? What about the fact that God's people are saved and called with an holy calling, not according to their works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given them in Christ Jesus before the world began? What about the fact that they were predestinated to be conformed to the image of Christ? What about the fact that nothing can separate them from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus? What about the fact that "the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His"?

These are just a few of the impossible hurdles one would have to get over before he could rightly give credence to a system that consigns to eternal hell a great percentage of those that God (wanted?) to save. Why should God---who knows all things before they happen--- set up a system under which untold millions of His people would be eternally lost, when He could just as easily choose a people out of all nations and tribes before the foundation of the world and infallibly secure the eternal destiny of all the innumerable host of them? In other words, why would he set up a system that He knew in advance would be a colossal failure, when He could just as easily set up a system that perfectly fulfills His purpose in every particular?

The truth is that He established eternal salvation on the basis of His own unfailing purpose, will, and decree---not upon the fickle, uncertain, and unreliable works of the creature. In this way He receives all the glory, and man is left with absolutely nothing to boast of, and Satan is totally vanquished and defeated. The Scriptures make it abundantly clear that God "shall not fail nor be discouraged." How thankful we should be that He rules and reigns eternally!

---Elder Ralph Harris