

Doctrinal Studies
THE ETERNAL PLAN OF GOD
Eph 1:9; 4-6; I John 3:23

1. God has all knowledge. There was never a time when God did not know what He was going to do. A simple definition of the Eternal Plan of God is: the sum total of God's design formulated in the ages past.
2. The Eternal Plan of God is carried out in the Person of Jesus Christ. 1 John 3:23, Eph 1:4-6.
3. Entrance into the Plan of God can only come about by means of grace. Here the sovereignty of God and the free will of man meet at the cross. They meet without any merit on man's part and it becomes a marriage of faith and grace. In grace God accomplishes the work, while man receives and enjoys and gains the benefits totally apart from his own efforts. Man's work, talents, thoughts, organizational abilities, will never gain the grace and favor of God. Man is totally a recipient of God's grace.
4. God has designed a plan so perfect that it does not interfere with choice and it includes cause and effect, directive, provision, preservation and function for all believers. None excluded!
5. In His plan, God has decreed to do some things directly and some through the agency of Israel and the Church and some through individuals.
6. The plan of God is consistent with human freedom. God does not limit or coerce human freedom, but a distinction must be made between what God caused (The cross) and what God permits (sin). God created man with free will and permits human choice to function and this is how Adam sinned. God is not the author of sin. He does not tempt or authorize sin. Man's choice is the source of sin. Man has free will and God never condones sin in the human race. God always warns man of sin and its consequences.

Doctrinal Studies
THE ETERNAL PLAN OF GOD
Eph 1:9; 4-6; I John 3:23

7. God is perfect and His plan is perfect. Since God cannot contradict His own character, He plans the best for every Christian. His plan is to take every believer into the Grace Abounding Life as rapidly as possible and keep him there as long as possible. God's magnificent high road of grace is designed for every born-again believer. Hebrews and Ephesians are parallel epistles emphasizing the design of God. Hebrews emphasizes the universal priesthood and Ephesians emphasizes the decrees.
8. The cross was designed (decreed) in the Ages Past but the human volition of Jesus Christ decided for the Cross and Gethsemane. Matt 26:39,42. God provided salvation for every person, but each individual must accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. John 3:36
9. No design of God opposes human freedom, but once a choice is made from free will, then the entrance into the plan of God by faith in Jesus Christ means that the function of the decrees does limit your human freedom, while at the same time giving volition, freedom to serve God. The limitation is in the area of purpose. The limitation is designed to put the Christian results in dissatisfaction and unhappiness in life. A Christian, to have inner happiness must choose to function under God's plan. Non-perception and/or deliberately opposing God's way will result in a frantic search and great misery and perplexity. The sooner a Christian gets on God's Grace Highway, consistently growing in grace and knowledge, the sooner God is free to pour His blessings upon him. There really is no other way to go! But some don't want it.