

A neon sign spelling the word "ASK" in bright blue, glowing letters. The sign is mounted on a dark, textured wall. The letters are stylized and have a slight shadow cast behind them. The background is dark, making the neon sign stand out prominently.

Answering the Congregation's Bible Questions

fortwaynechristians.org/ask



ASK

Question #1

How does God's providence work? Does he really have a plan already in place for me? How do my free will choices factor into this?

Question #1

Scripture Affirms Both!

1. God's predetermined plan (e.g. Jer. 1:5, Ac 17:26)

_____ AND _____

2. Humankind's ongoing free moral agency
(e.g. Dt 30:19-20, 2 Pt 3:9)

ASK

Question #1

Two Aspects of the Issue

- 1. The Logic Problem:** How can both God's predestined purpose and our free will be true?
- 2. The Personal Question:** Does God have a purpose for me, and can I thwart that purpose?

ASK

Question #1

Two Aspects of the Issue

- 1. The Logic Problem:** How can both God's predestined purpose and our free will be true?
- 2. The Personal Question:** Does God have a purpose for me, and can I thwart that purpose?

ASK

Question #1

Three Theological Approaches

- 1. Calvinism:** Emphasizes God's irresistible grace and unconditional election.
- 2. Arminianism:** Emphasizes human ability to accept or reject grace; affirms conditional election.
- 3. Molinism:** Harmonizes God's providence and human free will by emphasizing omniscience.

ASK

Question #1

Foreknowledge or Predestination?

1 Sam. 23:8-29

1. **David** asked God, "**Will Saul come down?**"
2. The **Lord** answered, "**He will.**"
3. So **David** and his men kept moving.
4. When **Saul** heard David had escaped, he **didn't go** where God said he would.

ASK

Question #1

Foreknowledge or Predestination?

1 Sam. 23:8-29

- God gave the **conditional** answer David needed.
- David's **choice** affected what happened.
- If God **predestined** it, Saul would go *anyway*.
- God knows what **we would do** in any situation.
- Foreknowing our *potential* choices, God shapes events without impeding on human choice.

ASK

Question #1

Two Aspects of the Issue

- 1. The Logic Problem:** How can both God's predestined purpose and our free will be true?
- 2. The Personal Question:** Does God have a purpose for me, and can I thwart that purpose?

ASK

Question #1

What is our purpose?

- A creature's purpose is determined by its Creator. Our purpose is **God's glory** (1 Pet. 4:11)
- God made us as **His image** (Gen. 1:26)
- We fulfill these aims by **obeying** His commandments with love (Ecc. 12:13, Mt. 22:36ff)
- In a lost world, we are light as Christ's **royal priesthood** (Rev. 1:6, 1 Pet. 2:9-10)

ASK

Question #1

What is *my* purpose?

- The Bible shows God had specific purposes for **individuals**, but they often didn't know God's plans for them until afterward (Joseph, Moses, Pharaoh, Ruth, Boaz, Esther, Naaman's Servant, etc)
- The key for God's servants is to **follow Him**.

ASK

Question #1

“Finding My Place”

- Don't try to prove you're **special**, try to find places to **serve**. This is the purpose of **gifts** in the Bible (Rom. 12:3-8).
- Consider your **gifts**, your circle of **influence**, your **opportunities**, your **responsibilities**, and your **aspirations**.

ASK

Question #1

Can I Mess It Up?

- Some thwarted God's purpose for them by **refusing to obey** God's Word (Lk 7:30).
- Following Him will **fulfill** His goals for you.
- You are called to the **priesthood**, called to the **ministry**, called to **royalty**, called to be the world's **worship** leader, **guide**, **intercessor**, and **change** agent (Mt 5:12-16, Eph. 4:12, 1 Pet. 2:9-10, Rev. 1:6).

ASK