

MESSAGE APPLICATION GUIDE

Pastor Jeff Bucknam

Acts 1:12-26

OBSERVATION

1. Ephesians 1:4-6 says: “. . . He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace . . .” When you are reading your Bible and come across verses that refer to election and God’s sovereignty, what is your reaction? Why do you feel this way?

2. Why is it important to believe both in God’s absolute sovereignty and human free will and moral responsibility? What will we end up believing if we are soft on God’s sovereignty, or if we deny human free will?

INTERPRETATION

3. In your opinion, what is the biggest problem with the concept that God predestined Judas to betray Jesus? Was Judas a mere pawn in God’s hand? Is God a cosmic puppeteer and nothing more? Please discuss.

APPLICATION

4. Devise a plan with your small group regarding how to investigate the topic of God’s sovereignty and human free will. When you meet again the week of October 4, discuss your findings with one another. Suggestion: do a search on the words “chosen,” “foreknow,” “predestined,” and gather to discuss the meaning of the relevant verses in their contexts.

5. Final thought: On Thursday, November 4 at 6:30 PM on the Elgin Campus, Pastor Jeff Bucknam and Pastor Kyle Meeker will be teaching their theology class on the topic of providence using Wayne Grudem’s Systematic Theology (second edition). Consider attending that session together as a small group.