



Name: _____

Date: _____

Words to know:

primacy (*being first or most important*), alienated (*separated, isolated*), asymmetry (*lack of equality or balance*)

Predestination is a _____ truth: "He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He _____ us in love to be his sons through _____, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved." —Ephesians 1:4-6

The point is not that our free choice is an _____ or that we live in a deterministic world, but rather that God has a _____ for our _____, a plan by which He sweetly and strongly provides for us to follow Him in freedom.

Two Key Principles in Predestination:

The Primacy of Christ:	We are only _____ through _____ and the blood of his cross. To put it simply, we cannot _____. We need a _____, and Jesus Christ is the only _____ of the world.
The Primacy of Grace:	We are saved by Christ's _____, not our own _____. It is important for us to cooperate with grace, but salvation is primarily and principally _____ work in us, the work of _____. This grace does two things: 1) It _____ us; and 2) It _____ us.

Pelagianism:

Pelagius denied that _____ heals and elevates us. Rather, he would say that by your own hard _____ and good _____, you can save yourself.

This doesn't acknowledge the truth that we are in radical need of _____ to do good, and that without the special aid of divine grace, we cannot be _____. —Ephesians 1:4-6

The Church's Response:

In response to Pelagianism, the Church made it clear that we can only be saved by _____, for two towering reasons:

1. Even if man had never sinned, it simply is not possible for our nature to be _____ with God, to have eternal _____ with God, or to share in the divine nature. These things are simply _____ us.
2. After sin, we experience the _____ of sin and the weakening of our nature so that even natural good becomes difficult for us. We are alienated from God by our own _____.

The Asymmetry of Salvation:

If we're saved, our salvation comes entirely from _____ while we freely _____.

But if we sin and refuse salvation, this is not _____ by God, but is due entirely to the refusal of the creature. . . God is in no way the cause of _____, even though He permits it. . . In other words, God does NOT _____ us to evil.

God's Predestination:

When Aquinas speaks of predestination, therefore, he's referring to God's eternal _____ to grant grace to a rational creature in order to send it to its ultimate end, which is _____.

God is the _____ of our very being and of our human nature, and so as our creator, God can work _____ us. . . He can enlighten our minds to see what is _____ and then act within our _____ in order to move them freely to desire this good.

Comprehension question: God desires our salvation and gives grace to save us. What are some ways you can better cooperate with his grace in your life?