

The Script Is Not Yet Written

Commentary for December 15, 2016 — **How Should We Consider that Statement?**

On December 1, 2016 President-Elect Donald Trump gave a “thank you speech” to supporters in Cincinnati, Ohio. In that speech he said, **“The script is not yet written. We do not know what the next page will read.”** I found that statement very interesting. Trump was referring to the future prosperity and well-being of the United States. He says his administration will work to **“make America great again.”** Time will tell if that can be done.

Donald Trump’s statement is an example of “indeterminism.” The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, 2016, defines “indeterminism” as **“a theory that the will is free and that deliberate choice and actions are not determined by or predictable from antecedent causes.”**

That such a statement came from a billionaire¹ should not surprise anyone. Donald Trump believes that the people of the United States, with the help of wise leaders, can determine and change the course of the nation to increased prosperity and well-being. Of course, this is the goal of all leaders of all nations.

Trump’s view is opposed to the concept of “determinism” whereby events are totally governed by natural and social forces that propel national and the world’s destiny in a direction, usually toward some sort of collectivism.²

“Determinism” is a social and political theory. Again, the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, 2016, defines determinism as **“a theory or doctrine that acts of the will, occurrences in nature, or social or psychological phenomena are causally determined by preceding events or natural laws.”** In other words, all actions are predetermined by prior events. Free will acts are an illusion, merely part of causes, whether understood or not.

Determinism is often used to justify the inevitability of the secular political theories of socialism and communism. In those theories society is propelled by inevitable social forces toward a collective government where the “goodness” of mankind will result in a golden age. World government is one of their goals. In theology, determinism minimizes free will.

The Scriptures strongly reject “determinism” as directing mankind toward a good final result. First, there is no inherent goodness in the heart of any child of Adam (Hebrews 4:13; Jeremiah 17:9–10), except a weak force of conscience (1 Corinthians 8:7, 10, 12), constantly

¹ The rich work hard for their wealth, yet they seldom realize it is a gift of God. Ecclesiastes 5:19:

“Every man also to whom God has given riches and wealth, and has given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God.”

² Keep in mind always that the first priority of all leaders is to remain in power. The prosperity and well-being of the people they lead is third or lower on their list of priorities. See my April 2012 article, [“What Is Important.”](#) Western nations usually transfer power peacefully. In the Middle East, Africa, parts of Asia and South America, transfers of power are often bloody.

overwhelmed by sin. Second, there is nothing we can do to save ourselves from sin through good works, or overcome inevitable death. Only God's grace through the life and works of Christ can do that. (Anything we "do" to be saved is an attempt of salvation by works.)

Again, the Scriptures strongly reject "indeterminism." The affairs of nations, and mankind in general throughout history are all subject to God's will (Acts 17:26, 1 Timothy 2:1–6). The affairs of individuals, in matters that God deems important, He also determines when they should happen. The time of birth and death are one example (Ecclesiastes 3:1–2, 17; Job 14:5, 14).

No human beings have free will. Only God the Father has free will. Christ Jesus did the will of His Father while He was on earth and even now, and in the future (1 Corinthians 15:27–28).³ Of course, we all have a personal will, but it is not free. As you come to know more of the truth of God in Scripture, you become more free in your life, by making choices informed by love. **"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"** (John 8:32).

Your Script

Likewise, God determines when and if you shall be called to learn the truth earlier than most people (Ephesians 1:3–5). The end of your script is also predetermined. It is God's will for you to be saved, along with all human beings (1 Timothy 2:3–6, 4:10). If you are reading these words, you likely are "chosen" by God to be saved sooner rather than later.⁴

Each of us is now a player on the stage of God's creation. I partially explained this before in my April 1, 2014 Commentary, "[It's a Mystery: God's Operations in Fulfilling His Will](#)." We are all participants in a pageant performance that all mankind will experience.

God's Script for Mankind Has Been Written

God and Christ have a fully predetermined script for every human who will ever live. It is for them to be saved and to come to a full knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4, 6, 4:10). What truth? The truth of God's work of salvation through Christ that was predetermined from before the foundation of the world (Isaiah 46:10–12; Ephesians 1:4–5, 11). This is the result for you and every other human, to be like Christ is now (1 John 3:5). God is greatly expanding His family. Therefore, Donald Trump is wrong, the script is written, even though we do not know what the next page will read. The script is written for you and for all mankind.

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³ John 5:30:

"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which has sent me."

⁴ For a quick explanation of these matters, read Dr. Martin's small book, [The ABCs of the Gospel](#) (available only online). For an expansive explanation, read Dr. Martin's [Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#), available both online and for purchase. In addition, you can listen to both books as downloadable MP3 files.