

Not merely so, the dangerous misconceptions referred to, have been selected, and made the basis of several spreading heresies :—a topic to which we may yet call special attention.

These arrangements leave free the human will.

Since this predestination, is a predestination to the sufferings of the present time, it does not act directly on the *will* of man. And since it is a predestination of those who love God ; and since such willingly, yea, joyously, submit to the sufferings, appointed by their Heavenly Father, for their good, taking " pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, etc., for Christ's sake," being " ready to be bound," " not accepting deliverance that they might obtain a better resurrection ;" it is, accordingly, a predestination which manifestly leaves free the human will.

God calls them that love him to submit to the appointed sufferings voluntarily, and joyfully.

Ver. 30., " Moreover whom he did predestinate them he also called."

Having been viewed as them that love God, when this call came, it is evident that this call cannot involve the doctrine of irresistible regeneration, or regeneration in any way. And for the same reason, it cannot be the call to them that do *not* love God ; and which refers to repentance and faith. With these things, or those characters, it has here nothing to do. It is a call or invitation given to them that do love God, to suffer with Jesus.

The apostles informed and reminded Christians of this call. For instance, Peter says, (1st Epistle, 2nd. ch., 20, 21 verses), " If, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." The sufferings which Christ endured, for the purpose of leaving us an example, were, of course, not the peculiar sufferings that were connected with his atonement, but the ordinary sufferings pertaining to this present world. His example under these, we may be, and are, called to follow. Jesus himself called every follower to suffer these with him. " If any *man* will come after me let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."—Mat. 16. 24. And as Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before him ; so we are called to " count it all joy" when we fall into divers trials of our faith.

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