

William G. Most,

New Answers to Old Questions,

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Bombay, 1971, 576 pp.

A great controversy within the Catholic Church had raged for the past three hundred years on the subject of predestination: whether God decrees to save or not to save a certain man after looking at his merits or demerits. After carefully studying the views of different schools the author has offered a solution which, according to him, is liked by many modern theologians. In brief, the solution in the words of the author himself will be as follows: There are three theological stages in the process of predestination: 1. The Universal salvific will of God which is sincere and extremely strong; 2. The reprobation of all whom God foresees will gravely and persistently resist grace. Reprobation is after, and because of, foreseen demerits. 3. Predestination of all others, in whom God does not foresee grave and persistent resistance. The sole cause of this decree of predestination is the goodness and generosity of God.

The author feels that as the problem of predestination is a theological one, the philosophical method cannot fully solve it. But he does not deny the great value of metaphysics in helping to find a solution for the problem. He has examined under the guidance of the teaching of the Church all passages in revelation that treat the question. The earlier theologians were hampered by a formerly current misinterpretation of certain passages of scripture especially Romans 8:28-9:24 and I Cor. 4:7. Today those interpretations are rejected by good exegetes of all schools.

The book is a good study on the problem of predestination. After examining the views of old and new theologians one feels that the problem remains partly a mystery even now.

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