

man refuses to believe, he will, remain under the condemnation and wrath of God.

(b) Once this connection between means and ends is understood, it will be seen that this doctrine does not discourage effort; rather it encourages it.

If a person believes that it is God's all-embracing Plan that success will reward effort, he will be encouraged to exert such effort. Nothing is more conducive to the exertion of effort than the expectation of success; nothing is more conducive to indolence and lethargy than the expectation of failure.

(c) Scripture records exhortations to the diligent use of means in order to gain the ends sought.

Acts 27:22-24, 30-31 -- "And yet now I urge you to keep your courage, for there shall be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.' And as the sailors were trying to escape from the ship, and had let down the ship's boat into the sea, on the pretense of intending to lay out anchors from the bow, Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, 'Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved.' "

Philippians 2:12-13 -- "So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

Ephesians 2:10 -- "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

(d) The following line of reasoning could be employed:

If there is a divinely ordained connection between means and ends;

And if, in order to afford to human beings the greatest conceivable freedom of action, God had ordained no means;

Then how could God, with any degree of assurance of fulfillment, ordain ends, and how could those ends be secured?

Yet Scripture clearly teaches that God has ordained certain ends, and that those ends will be secured;

And if God has ordained a connection between those ends and definite means, then those means must also be ordained, if the ends are to be secured.