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But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? No mortal comprehends its worth; it cannot be found in the land of the living. The deep says, "It is not in me"; the sea says, "It is not with me." It cannot be bought with the finest gold, nor can its price be weighed out in silver. It cannot be bought with the gold of Ophir, with precious onyx or lapis lazuli. Neither gold nor crystal can compare with it, nor can it be had for jewels of gold. Coral and jasper are not worthy of mention; the price of wisdom is beyond rubies. The topaz of Cush cannot compare with it; it cannot be bought with pure gold. Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell? It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds in the sky. Destruction and Death say, "Only a rumor of it has reached our ears." God un-



derstands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells, for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens. (Job 28:12-24)

**HOME MINISTRY AUGUST 2023
DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF
THE REACH BEYOND
MINISTRY TO THE PEOPLES
OF CZECHIA AND SLOVAKIA**

**THREE
AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

We met for the first time on August 11, 1964, and almost a year later, we were married. Little did we know that this chance meeting would set in motion a series of events that would redirect our lives. The second-anniversary date to remember is August 21, 1968. It is 55 years this month, since the treacherous Russian invasion, and forty years of communist domination. The third Anniversary is August 11, 1969, when we became refugees. We can rejoice; America gave us a new chance. We were free of ideological oppression for the first

time. What is most important, after eight years in the US our Lord saved us.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ONE OF PAVEL'S GEOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY CLASSMATES IN KLDNO

About 15 years ago at one of the reunions, Pavel openly shared his belief in Christ with a classmate who recently deceased. She ridiculed his faith and expressed her wonder; how strange it is that a geologist can believe in such things as young earth etc. She even refused to allow us to mail her the magazine which we have published for 34 years. As we learned from her family, she shared with them an encounter with Pavel; however, that did not change her atheistic conviction.

During the memorial service, not one word was mentioned about the end of life. As the casket rolled into the darkness, it was obvious that no glory awaited her at the end of the tunnel. First cremation and then the judgment:

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (Hebrew 9:27)

How sad. The gathering of the mourners consisted of the family members – children and grandchildren, and former colleagues and graduates of geological sciences, holding significant professional positions; now retired. Most of their children followed the parental example. The question arose in conversa-

tion: Why is it important for convinced materialists and atheists to perform a memorial service? Though they openly denounced the notion of spiritual values, they were very sensitive about all injustice in the world, the society, wrongdoing, and wrong acting, the evil in the past and present. They denied God but lived as if there was a god. No wonder, after living all their professional life under communism this was evident. On the other side, they mentioned valid criticism of the historical religious wars and misconduct of churches, sexual abuse, etc.

However, they admitted that the deceased deserves respect and remembrance because she was a good person. The wicked are rather the exception, not the rule. This describes quite an accurate state of mind of an intelligent, educated and humanly speaking accomplished generation that lacks spiritual values concerning human life based on the word of God. For those nearing the end of their lives, the possibility that there is final justice and the judge is God, fell on deaf ears: "You won't convince me ..." In vain Pavel tried to explain that it is not in our human power to convince anyone; only God can do it.

At least the widowed husband paid attention to what Pavel had to say at the end of the funeral feast. He somewhat agreed that human beings may be more than a chemical compound.

We mentioned to him that we drive every Sunday to Kladno to attend church; he recounted that as a child he

used to attend church with Grandma. As we left, he said, „Maybe I'll come see you?"

ANOTHER ENCOUNTER

Our friend's 50th birthday was this month. We've known her for about ten years. We met her on a sightseeing trip to Turkey. We've been seeing each other on special occasions. The whole family is tolerant of our faith in Christ. They listen and that's it. No response. However, to celebrate her 50th birthday she invited her 74-year-old "adopted" uncle. Uncle Václav (Wenceslaus) listened to Pavel's explanation of the gospel and had many questions, and Pavel saw that his eyes were moist. As we said goodbye, he asked for our email address. A few days later he wrote, looked at our website, and asked if we could see each other sometime. God's ways are so unexpected! Please pray for him.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

When our IT wizard, Vladimir, helped Pavel to resolve a huge problem that occurred after an automated update of his PC, Klara had the opportunity to have a glimpse of Vladimir's tutoring on what this new AI technology software can do. The resources, speed, inspiration, ideas, themes, and possibilities are astonishing. Is this another path to impersonal communication addiction, or to learn how to use it to the best? She admits it has captured her attention.

Here is the result of the first step in the AI Adventure and New World challenge; "Write a short essay on election, voluntary predestination, and free choice." First came term definitions followed by the philosophical conclusion:

Title:

Election, Voluntary Predestination, and Personal Responsibility:

Amidst these theological contemplations, the notion of "personal responsibility" stands as a cornerstone of ethical reflection. Regardless of the extent to which our lives are predetermined or elected, the actions we undertake remain our responsibility. Our moral decisions, choices, and behaviors define the trajectory of our existence. This concept resonates across belief systems and philosophies, emphasizing that our actions hold consequences that extend beyond our lives and shape our world.

Navigating the interplay between these concepts requires a delicate balance. One must acknowledge the pull of destiny, the allure of election, and the significance of personal responsibility. Rather than existing in isolation, these ideas coexist in a complex dance, reflecting the multidimensional nature of human existence. Embracing the notion that being chosen does not absolve one of their duties to themselves and others offers a way to harmonize the divine and the human, the predetermined and the chosen, the fated and the free.

In conclusion, the concepts of the divine election, voluntary predestination, and personal responsibility serve as perennial sources of contemplation and debate. While these ideas may appear contradictory on the surface, they can be woven together into a more comprehensive understanding of the human experience. By acknowledging our potential for choice within the framework of destiny, and by recognizing that our actions remain our own regardless of divine design, we pave the way for a deeper engagement with the mysteries of existence while upholding the values of personal accountability and ethical living.

Spiritually speaking:

Adventure in the virtual and digital world, the era of new AI technological marvels, and the ability to replicate unrecognizable voices of deceased people are mind-boggling tools entering our lives. It is one thing to admire this technology in the movies and question how far this all will go and how we will handle the outcome. How do we know what is real and what is not? What is authentic and what is artificial? How will it affect churches, mission ministries, gospel presentation, and spiritual identity?

Like everything else, it is better not to rely on technology, but to remember that every technological shortcut may become a good servant or a bad master.

PRAISE AND PRAYER NEED

- Please pray with us for wisdom on how to be a light in this dark world, regarding governmental leadership, unity, courage, trust, and patience of all involved.
- Keep the ministries and us in your prayers.
- Pray for Václav, who has shown an interest in Christ.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS,
SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION
IN OUR LIFE AND
THE CZECH AND SLOVAK
MINISTRIES**

**In His Sovereign Grace,
Pavel and Klara Steiger**
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