

and the incident of Esau's selling his birthright for a mess of ~~pot~~age, and of Isaac's blessing one son and thinking he was blessing another, are incidents which show the character of the people involved in it, but which do not have any effect on what God was going to do. God was going to work his will and he would have worked it in spite of them. Yes? (student. 4 1/4) Yes, well of course that is getting into a big question. It is a very large matter. It is perfectly easy to prove, that you have actual freedom, that instead of your being, you could be an engineer or an aviator, or a minister or a doctor or anything you wanted to, if you just wanted to. I read in the Reader's Digest yesterday that a man said that, a man visited the town of Hannibal, Missouri, where Mark Twain had lived, in this little sleepy river town. He ~~said~~ saw an elderly man there and said, say, did you ever know Mark Twain? Oh, yes, he said, of course I knew Mark Twain very well. He said I had just just as many interesting experiences as Mark Twain ever had. He said, only thing was, he writ his down. There you are. It's easy for a person to think ~~th~~ that we have the free will to do what we want and to be anywhere we want, but of course it's easy for us to see that other people are pretty closely tied down by a great many circumstances. And that the difference they can make is within certain closely hemmed in ~~o~~areas. On the other hand it is easy to prove and a great scientist and philosophers thing they have proven to their own satisfaction, that everything in the world is just the result of force, one touching another, and the next touching the next and it works out this way and there's nothing we can do about it, we just couldn't help it one way or the other. That is-- the Bible teaches, however, the Bible teaches two facts, it teaches on the one hand that God has ordained everything ~~that~~ comes to pass or it teaches that from the beginning of the world, from before the ~~world~~ God has ordained it and all these circumstances and all the situations are what he has worked out and it is all a result of his will, but it also teaches that he did not make us to be automatons, that life