

## ***Should it be "ordained" or "disposed" ?***

... and as many as<sup>1</sup> were **ordained** to eternal life believed. Acts 13:48 [A.V.]

και επιστευσαν οσοι<sup>1</sup> ησαν **τεταγμενοι** εις ζωνην αιωνιον

The word translated **ordained** (**τεταγμενοι**) is from the verb **τασσω** [*tasso*] and is pronounced **tas-sew** (sew as in sewing).

### **The Dilemma**

The word "**ordained**" gives the impression that God had already decided that only particular individuals will be saved, but God insists that he wants everyone to be saved:-

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Some commentaries suggest that *tasso* would be better translated:-

"and as many as **were disposed** to eternal life believed." [see C.J.Ellicott's Commentary].

Albert Barnes wrote "the meaning [of *tasso*] is never used to denote an internal *disposition* or *inclination* arising from one's own self."

### **How was *tasso* used by the Greeks ?**

*Tasso* - literally it meant: to place. It was generally used as a military term, **a)** in the **active voice**: to deploy troops, to post officers, then metaphorically to order, to assign, to set in order to prescribe taxes etc. **b)** in the **middle voice**: to fall into line, then metaphorically to agree upon etc. **c)** in the **passive voice**: to be deployed/posted, then metaphorically to be prescribed etc.

[For examples see the extract from Liddell & Scott's Lexicon on page 4.]

It never had the idea of being predestined, neither was it used to denote inner inclination.

It always had to do with directives being issued or accepted, or arrangements being made.

### **How is *tasso* used in the New Testament ?**

*Tasso* occurs eight times in the N.T. Seven are examined below. The words translated from *tasso* are in **bold type**.

**Matthew 28:16** ... the eleven disciples went ... into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus **had appointed** them.

The Lord had directed them to meet him there.

**Luke 7:8** ... I also am a man **set** under authority ... The Roman officer had been directed to take charge of a company of soldiers.

**Acts 15:2** ... they **determined that** Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

The church in Antioch directed them to take the matter to Jerusalem.

**Acts 22:10** ... there it shall be told thee of all things which **are appointed** for thee to do. Paul was going to be given his directions.

**Acts 28:23** And when they **had appointed** him a day, there came many to him into *his* lodging ... They arranged the time when they would meet.

**Romans 13:1** Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers (*authorities*). For there is no power (*authority*) but of God: the powers (*authorities*) that be **are ordained** of (*by*) God.

Civil Authorities are authorised by God to regulate society for the benefit of its citizens.

**1 Corinthians 16:15** ... they **have addicted** themselves to the ministry of the saints.

They had committed themselves to serving other Christians.

So again *tasso* had to do with directives being issued or accepted, or arrangements being made. There is no reason why it should be different in the remaining verse - Acts 13:48.

### **How is *tasso* used in Acts 13:48 ?**

Previously, in the synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia, Paul had explained how, according to prophesy, God had made salvation available by the Lord Jesus. The next Sabbath, at the request of the Gentiles, Paul returned to repeat the message (Acts 13:14-45). The Jews severely heckled him and rejected the way to eternal life. Paul then concentrated on the Gentiles.

**Acts 13:46** Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting (*eternal*) life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. [A.V.]

So verses 47 and 48 are about the Gentiles.

**Acts 13:47** For so hath the Lord commanded us, *saying*, I have set thee to be a light of the **Gentiles**, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. 48 And when the **Gentiles** heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as (οσοι<sup>1</sup>) **were ordained** (*tasso*) to eternal life believed. [A.V.]

**v.46** - The Jews rejected the way of eternal life.

**v.47** - Paul is now talking to the Gentiles. He tells the numerous (v.44) Gentiles present that salvation was available to them.

**v.48** - *tasso* has to do with either directive being given or an arrangement being made.

A better translation would be:

"... all, though many, who<sup>1</sup> **were directed** to eternal life - believed"

All the Gentiles present **were directed** to eternal life by Paul **and they all believed**.

NOTE 1: οσοι is from οσος (pronounced hosos). Hosos means more than all. It stresses amount. c.p. Rom.6:3, Acts 18:8, 2.Cor.1:20. "all, though many, that"

Definition of tasso from H.G.Liddell & R.Scott's Greek-English Lexicon - 1869

ΤΑΨΣΩ, Att.—ττω: fut. τάσω; aor. έτασα;—all Att.: pf. τέταχα Xen. Oec. 4. 5, (συν-) Plat. Legg. 625 C.—Med., fut. τάσομαι (in pass. sense), Lxx, cf. επιτάσσω 1: aor. έταράμην Hdt., Att.—Pass., fut. ταχθήσομαι Diod. 11. 41, (έπι-) Thuc., etc.; later ταγήσομαι Oribas.; 3 fut. τετάσομαι Eur. I. T. 1046, Thuc. 5. 71, Ar. Av. 636: aor. έτάχθην Hdt., Att.; rarely έτάγγην Eur. Fr. 957 Wagn., Perict. ap. Stob. 457. 53, Plut. 2. 965 E: pf. τέταγμα Pind., Att.; 3 pl. τετάχθαι Thuc. 3. 13, Xen.; 3 pl. plqpf. τετάχασθαι Thuc. 5. 6., 7. 4. To arrange, put in order, first in Pind. and Hdt.:—in military sense, to draw up in order of battle, to form, array, marshal, την στρατιήν Hdt. 1. 191; τοὺς ὀπλίτας Thuc. 4. 9; νεῶν στίφος ἐν στίχοις τρισίν Aesch. Pers. 366; πολεμίων στίχες Eur. Heracl. 676; τ. εἰς μάχην στρατιάν Xen. Cyr. 1. 6, 43; absol., Isocr. 380 B:—Pass. to be drawn up, εἰς μάχην Hdt. 1. 80; οὐδένα κόσμον ταχθέντες Id. 9. 69, etc.; ἐπὶ τεττάρων ταχθῆναι in four lines, Xen. An. 1. 2, 15; ἐπὶ μίας Id. Hell. 1. 6, 29, etc.; κατὰ μίαν τεταγμένοι in single column, Thuc. 2. 84, cf. 6. 67: absol., τεταγμένοι in rank and file, opp. to ἀτακτοί, Id. 2. 81, Xen., etc.:—so Thuc. uses the Med. to fall in, form in order of battle, 1. 48., 4. 11, etc.; ἐς μάχην 2. 20; τάσασθαι κύκλον to form in a circle, 2. 83., 3. 78; τάσασθαι οὐχ ὁμοίως 5. 68; sometimes with an acc. added, ἐπὶ τεσσάρων ταξάμενοι τὰς ναῦς having drawn up their ships in four lines, 2. 90 (cf. Eur. Heracl. 664); but ἔλκοσι ναοὶ ἐτάξαντο 3. 77. 2. to post, station, τὰς καμήλους ἀντία τῆς ἵππου Hdt. 1. 80; τινὰ ἐπὶ τινος, ἐπὶ τινι or ἐπὶ τινι one against another, Hdt. 5. 109, Aesch. Theb. 448, 284, cf. Eur. Phoen. 749, Xen. Cyr. 2. 1, 9, etc.; (but τ. τινὰ ἐπὶ τοῖς ἰππέας to appoint him to command them, Id. Hell. 3. 4, 20); τινὰ πρὸς τινι Id. Hell. 1. 7, 34, Plat. Polit. 262 E:—τ. τινὰ to assign him a post in the army, Lys. 187. 35, Lycurg. Leocr. 43:—Pass. to be posted or stationed, τῇ οὐδὲις ἐτέτακτο Hdt. 1. 84, cf. Aesch. Pers. 381; ἐς τὸ οὐδος Hdt. 7. 212; but ἐς τὸ πεζόν or ἐς π. τετάχθαι or ταχθῆναι to serve among the infantry, Ib. 21, 81; πέλιρ 5. 109; ἐς τὸ ναυτικὸν στρατὸν 7. 203; also c. gen., τῆς πρώτης τάξεως, or simply τῆς πρώτης, τετάχθαι Lys. 140. 31., 147. 12; also c. acc. cogn., τὰξιν τινὰ ταχθῆναι Plat. Phaedr. 247 A, etc.:—often foll. by Preps., ταχθῆναι or τετάχθαι ἐπὶ τινι against another, Thuc. 3. 78, Xen., etc.; so also ἐπὶ τινι Aesch. Theb. 448, Thuc. 3. 13, cf. 2. 70, etc.; but also to be posted at a place, ἐφ' ἑπτα πόλεις Soph. Ant. 142; ἐπ' εὐνόμων κέρατι on the left wing, Xen. Oec. 4. 19; (so ἐπὶ τοῦ λαοῦ κέρως Polyb. 1. 34, 4; δέξιόν τ. κέρας Eur. Supp. 657):—τ. κατὰ τινι, over against .., Hdt. 8. 85, Xen.:—τ. μετὰ τινι behind him .., Xen. Hell. 7. 2, 4; (so ἐπὶ τινι,

Id. Lac. 13. 7):—μετὰ τινος with him, by his side, Polyb. 2. 67, 2, etc., cf. Thuc. 2. 63;—so σύν τινι Xen. An. 3. 2, 17, etc.: παρὰ τὸν ποταμὸν Hdt. 9. 15; περὶ τὸ Ἡραῖον Ib. 69, cf. 8. 76:—also τ. ἑαυτὸν to take post, ἐν πανί everywhere, Dem. 302. 7; τ. ἑαυτὸν πρὸς τινι, σύν τινι to act with him, Dinarch. 110. 33, Dion. H. 8. 47. II. to appoint to any service, military or civil, the latter being metaph. from the former, τ. τινὰ ἐπὶ τινος one over a thing, to a service or task, Dem. 143-23, Polyb. 5. 65, 7, Plut., etc.; ἐπὶ τινι Aesch. Pers. 298, Eur. Ion 1040, Xen., etc.; ἐπὶ τι Ar. Av. 636, Isocr. 112 E, Plat., etc.;—often also, τ. ἑαυτὸν ἐπὶ τι to undertake a task, Plat. Rep. 371 C, Dem., etc.; πρὸς τι Xen. Mem. 2. 4, 6:—Pass., τετάχθαι ἐπὶ τινι to be appointed to a service, Hdt. 1. 191., 2. 38, Aesch. Pers. 298, Xen., etc.; ἐπὶ τι Ar. Av. 637, Xen. Cyr. 1. 4, 24, etc.; also ἐπὶ τινος Polyb. 3. 12, 5; ὁ πρὸς τοῖς γράμμασι τεταγμένος a secretary, Polyb. 15. 27, 7, cf. Diod. 2. 29, etc. 2.

c. inf. to appoint one to do a thing, τὰττετέ με ἡγεῖσθαι Xen. An. 3. 1, 25; and in Pass. to be appointed to do, Aesch. Eum. 279, 639, etc.; τασσόμενος πορεύεσθαι .. Xen. Cyr. 4. 5, 11, etc.:—also (sine inf.) τ. τινὰ ἔρχοντα [εἶναι] to appoint him ruler, Xen. Hell. 7. 1, 24; οἱ τεταγμένοι βραβεῖς Soph. El. 709; πρέσβεις ταχθέντες Dem. 363. 3; so τοῦτο τετάγμαθα (sc. ποιῆν) Eur. Alc. 49. 3. to order, c. acc. et inf., τινὰ ποιῆν τι Hdt. 3. 25, Soph. O. C. 639, Eur. Hec. 223, Xen., etc.; also τινὲ ποιῆν τι Hdt. 2. 124, Xen. Cyr. 1. 5, 5, etc.:—Pass., ἐτάχθην or τετάγμα ποιῆν τι Hdt. 3. 133., 8. 13, Aesch. Eum. 279, etc.; also τεταγμένος ποιῶ τι Aesch. Supp. 504, Soph. El. 759; also impers., οἷς ἐτέτακτο Βοηθῆν Thuc. 3. 22; τοῖς δὲ τέτακται ἐπεσθαι Xen. Lac. 11. 6:—also with the inf. omitted, κόσμον .., ὄντι' ἂν τάξῃ πόλις (sc. φυλάσσειν), Eur. Supp. 245, cf. 460, Hel. 1390, etc.; τάσσεσθαι ἐπ' Αἴγυπτον to be ordered to Egypt, Hdt. 3. 62, cf. 68., 6. 48:—also simply, τ. τι to order a thing, v. infra iii. 2; absol., οὕτω τὰττε δ νόμος Id. Lach. 199 A. 4. to assign to a class, τ. εἰς τάξιν τινά Xen. Mem. 2. 1, 8; εἰς τοὺς ἀρχικούς Ib.; εἰς δουλείαν Ib. 11, cf. Plat. Polit. 289 E, etc.: also τ. τινὰ ἐν τοῖς πρεσβυτάτοις to place him among .., Aeschin. 20. 4; τ. ἑαυτὸν τινω to act as one of a set, Dem. 438. 5:—Pass., πρὸς τὴν ξυμμαχίαν ταχθῆναι to join it, Thuc. 3. 86. III. c. acc. rei, to place in a certain order, χωρὶς τ. Hdt. 7. 36; μέσων τ. τι Eur. El. 908; πρῶτων τ. τι Xen. Mem. 3. 1, 9; ἐναυτίων Id. Cyr. 3. 3, 45; τ. τι ἐπὶ τινος to apply a term to a certain sense, Ath. 21 A; so in Pass., τετάχθαι κατὰ τινος Dion. H. 2. 48; ἐμπροσθεν τ. τινός Plat. Legg. 631 D, cf. Xen. Mem. 3. 1, 7, etc. 2. to appoint, ordain, order, τι Soph. El. 709, Plat., etc.; τὸ ταυτόμενον Ar. Eccl. 766; τὸ ταχθέν Soph. Aj. 528, etc.; τὰ τεταγμένα Xen., etc. 3. to appoint, fix, determine, prescribe, esp. of taxes or payments, τ. τινὲ φόρον Andoc. 30. 21, Aeschin. 31. 20, cf. Dem. 690. 1; so τ. δραχμὴν τινι Xen. Hell. 1. 5, 4; so τσο χρήματα τάξαντες φέρειν Thuc. 1. 19, etc.; and in Pass., φόρον ἐτάχθησαν φέρειν Hdt. 3. 97; τάσσειν ἀργυρίου to fix the price, at which .., Thuc. 4. 26:—absol., Arist. Eth. N. 9. 1, 8:—also in Med. to take a payment on oneself, i. e. agree to pay it, φόρον τάσασθαι Hdt. 3. 13., 4. 35, 65; χρήματα ἀποδοῦναι ταξάμενοι Thuc. 1. 101; ταξάμενοι κατὰ χρόνους agreeing to pay by instalments, Ib. 117, cf. 3. 70:—generally, to agree upon, τι Plat. Rep. 416 D, Legg. 844 B; c. inf., Polyb. 17. 7, 7, etc.; also τάσασθαι εἰς δωρεήν Hdt. 3. 97:—but in Med., also, much like the Act., ἐτάξατο φόρους οἱ προσίεναι Id. 3. 89. b. to impose punishments, etc., τ. δίκην Ar. Vesp. 1420, etc.; τ. ζημίαν, τιμωρίαν Plat. Legg. 876 C, Dem. 500. 25; τ. θάνατον τὴν ζημίαν Lycurg. 156. 10:—so also in Med., Hdt. 2. 65. c. in pf. part. pass., fixed, settled, prescribed, ὁ τεταγμένος χρόνος (like ταυτόσ) Hdt. 2. 41, etc.; ὥρα, ἡμέρα, ἔτος Eur. Bacch. 723, Xen., etc.; ἡ τερ. χώρα Xen. Cyr. 5. 3, 40, etc.; αἱ τερ. θυσίαι the regular offerings, Id. Hell. 3. 3, 4; οἱ τερ. νόμοι Plat. Crito 50 D, Rep. 619 C, etc.; also τὰ τερ. ὀνόματα the received names, Isocr. 190 D; ἡ τερ. τέχνη regular art, Id. 293 C: cf. τεταγμένος.

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or  
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[Acts 13:48]