

## The Doctrine of Predestination

Dan 4:35; “All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing; But He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth . . . . .” N.A.S.B.

### Definition:

- so, in its simplest form “predestination” refers to God’s choice of individuals for eternal life
- in other words, it’s a “pre-determined” appointment to salvation
- Martyn Lloyd Jones said; “Predestination is simply a description of the destiny that God has determined and decided upon for the people whom God has foreknown.”  
D. Martyn Lloyd Jones, Romans, Exposition of Chapter 8:17-39, pg. 242
- John MacArthur said; “From foreknowledge, which looks at the beginning of God’s purpose in His act of choosing, God’s plan of redemption moves to His predestination, which looks at the end of God’s purpose in His act of choosing.”  
The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Romans 1-8, pg. 497
- the word “predestined” comes from the Greek word “proorizo” which literally means; ‘to pre-determine, to determine beforehand, to mark out beforehand, to foreordain’

**Scripture References:** John 1:12-13, John 5:21, Acts 13:48, Rom 8:28-30, Rom 9:10-18, Rom 9:21-24, Eph 1:4-5, 9, 11 Phil 1:29, Phil 2:13, I Thes 5:9, II Tim 1:9, Jam 1:18

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### Introduction:

- we now come to the second link in the chain of salvation “foreknowledge’s” twin brother “predestination”
- the two are so closely tied together that some see them as synonymous
- yet, because of the fact that Scripture deals with them individually, we too will follow suite using Scripture as our pattern
- but, always keep in mind that all the links in the chain of salvation are indispensable to one another
- remove one link, and the chain unravels like a rope
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- beloved, from all eternity, before we ever existed, God decided to save some members of the human race and to let the rest of the human race perish

- God made a choice, He chose some individuals to be saved into everlasting blessedness and others He chose to pass over, to allow them to follow the consequences of their sin into eternal torment
- **Matt 20:15; “Is it not lawful for (God) to do what (He) wishes with (His) own . . . . .”**
- loved ones, a vexing problem with “predestination” is that God does not choose to “elect” everyone
- now, right out of the gate the thought of “predestination” is repugnant to the carnal mind
- on May 4<sup>th</sup>, in 1856, preaching at New Park Street Chapel in London, England, Charles Spurgeon said this; “Men will allow God to be everywhere except upon His throne. They will allow Him to be in His workshop to fashion worlds and to make stars. They will allow Him to be in His almonry to dispense His alms and bestow His bounties. They will allow Him to sustain the earth, and bear up the pillars thereof, or light the lamps of heaven, or rule the waves of the ocean; but when God ascends His throne, His creatures then gnash their teeth . . . . . When we proclaim an enthroned God and His right to do as He wills with His own, to dispose of His creatures as He thinks well, without consulting them in the matter, then it is that we are hissed at and men turn deaf ear to us, for God on His throne is not the God they love.”  
The New Park Street Pulpit Sermons, Vol. II, pg. 185
- when we come to “**The Doctrine of Predestination**” thoughts immediately arise which suggest that there is injustice with God
- because the carnal dictates of the mind resist the thought that God does not save everyone
- then, somehow we call into question God’s justice, God’s goodness, God’s fairness
- but, I don’t think you want to call into question God on what is just, do you ? ? ?
- Paul said in **Rom 9:20-21; “But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God ? Will the thing formed say to Him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this ? Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor ?”**
- friends, if God exercised justly, no one would be saved
- now, I want to remind you that your reasoning has been corrupted by sin
- therefore, you have a corrupt understanding

- Psa 50:1; “And you thought that I was altogether like you . . . . .”
- you see, we cannot allow our corrupt reasoning to determine divine truth
- so, once again we turn to the only source of truth uncorrupted by the fall, to the Holy Scriptures, the Bible
- and I would emphasize that our only response to God’s revelation is to submit ourselves totally to the inspiration of Scripture
- to come to Scripture as if we know nothing, allowing God to speak
- so, I begin by reminding you that Scripture claims; “Salvation is of the Lord” Jonah 2:9
- beloved, the language is unambiguous
- in fact, the Hebrew makeup of this verse is emphatic
- “Salvation is of the Lord” period, no ifs, ands, but, about it
- was there not a time when you “walked in the counsel of the ungodly, when (you) stood in the path of sinners, when (you) sat in the seat of the scornful . . . . .” ??? Psa 1
- was there not a time when you said “(I) will not have this Man (the Lord Jesus Christ) to reign over (me)” ??? Luke 19:14
- was there not a time when you “would not come to Christ that you might have life” ??? John 5:40
- if you’d be honest, you have to acknowledge there was
- but, how is it that all has now changed ???
- what was it that brought you from the haughty self-sufficient to a humble saint ???
- from one that was “enmity with God” to one that is at “peace with God” ???
- may I suggest unequivocally again “Salvation is of the Lord”
- may I suggest that it was God who was able to subdue your will and win your heart

- but, God does all of this in accordance with your will
- no-where does God violate your will
- God does so without interfering with your moral responsibility
- the simple fact is “we love Him because He first loved us” I John 4:19
- furthermore, “(God) has given us an understanding, that we may know Him . . . . .”  
I John 5:20
- so, again Matt 20:15; “Is it not lawful for (God) to do what (He) wishes with (His) own . . . . .” ?
- the answer, God’s will is not subject to man’s wishes
- God can do as he please with His “clay”
- God can do as He desires, as He wills, with His creation and with His creatures
- and that’s precisely what God has done on behalf of all who are saved, as He wills
- turn with me please to John 1:12-13, John 5:21, Phil 1:29, Phil 2:13, Jam 1:18
- so, I return to the rhetorical questions to stir your minds
- why is it that all are not saved, particularly all who hear the gospel ???
- well, the unsaved are lost because they refuse to “believe”
- John 3:18; “he who does not believe is condemned already . . . . .”
- and yet others are saved because they “believed”
- but, why do those who “believe” do so ???
- what is it that causes them to put “faith” in Christ and others to reject Him ???
- is it because they are smarter, more intelligent than the unsaved ???
- is it because they are better and less sinful ???

- beloved, it is **God Himself** who makes the difference between the **“elect”** and the non-elect
- for of **“His own”** it is written; **“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me”**  
**John 10:27**
- so, I ask, how is this done ???

## I. God's Pre-Determination:

- Rom 8:28-30; “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”
- this is a monumental text, which is really the under-girding of our salvation
- the Apostle Paul clearly lists the five components, the five elements, the five links in the chain of salvation
- “foreknowledge, predestination, election (realized in the call), justification, and glorification” all the components in “**The Doctrines of Grace**”
- but, for our purposes this morning were interested in the “predestination” of God’s people
- so, in Rom 8:28-30, notice the unbreakable chain of salvation introduced by the phrase “. . . . . He also . . . . .” in vs.29
- God Himself not only “. . . . . foreknew (but) He also predestined . . . . .”
- that is, God “predestined” His sovereign plan of salvation
- first says Paul, that the “elect” are “. . . . . foreknown (by God) then predestined . . . . .” to salvation
- thus, “predestination” is effectively God carrying out His sovereign plan and will in the case of those who are “foreordained” to salvation
- vs. 29; “For whom God foreordained, He also predestined . . . . .”
- remember the word “predestined” comes from the Greek word “proorizo” which literally means; ‘to pre-determine, to determine beforehand, to mark out beforehand, to foreordain’
- the word is synonymous with “determined” in Scripture
- and these interchangeable words are always used in a verb form denoting the action by another

- and the action by another is God, God 'pre-determining beforehand' the salvation of the believer
- allow me to illustrate this further from Scripture, turn with me please to [Rom 9:21-24](#)
- now, I want to bring your attention to the phrase "[prepared beforehand](#)" in [vs. 23](#)
- "[prepared beforehand](#)" is the Greek word "proetoimazo" which literally means; 'to make ready'
- this word "[prepared](#)" is in the aorist active voice of the verb tense, also denoting the action of God
- thus, "[prepared beforehand](#)" carries the same idea as "[predestined](#)" in [Rom 8:29-30](#)
- and in both cases, the action is of God
- friends, the text is clear, God "[predestined and prepared beforehand](#)" those to whom He has "[elected](#)" to salvation
- so, I now ask the question, when did God do all this, that is "[predestined and prepared beforehand](#)" those for salvation ???
- in other words, when did God plan this course of action 'to make ready' the "[elect](#)" ???
- the answer, "[before the foundation of the world](#)"
- now, it's important to emphasize that the plan of salvation did not come into the mind of God after the fall of Adam
- it was in God's mind even before the creation of the entire universe
- turn with me please to [Matt 25:34](#), [Eph 1:4](#), [Rev 13:8](#)
- loved ones, God initiated, God purposed, God willed your salvation "[before the foundation of the world](#)"
- before the world was ever called into existence
- thus, "[before the foundation of the world . . . . . God predestined . . . . . God prepared beforehand . . . . .](#)" all true believers



## II. God's Purpose:

- turn back to [Rom 8:28-30](#)
- Paul's business in [vs. 29-30](#) is to expound the last phrase at the end of [vs. 28](#); ". . . . . to those who are called according to (God's) purpose"
- this phrase, first and foremost, is a declaration that God has a definite plan and "purpose" with respect to the salvation of souls
- the expression "according to" literally means; 'in accordance with or because of'
- you see, the great comforting promise of [Rom 8:28](#) is that God will over-rule ". . . . . all things for the good of those that love (Him), to those who are the called . . . . ."
- now, they are ". . . . . the called . . . . . " and are loved of God ". . . . . (because of) or according to (God's) purpose"
- that is the ultimate explanation of the "foreknowledge, predestination, calling, justification, and glorification" of God's "elect"
- we are told here what God has decided, decreed, and delivered ". . . . . to those who are the called according to God's purpose"
- so, the key to our "predestination" is ". . . . . according to (or because of) God's purpose"
- now, this great truth that we are examining is not confined to this passage alone, so allow me to illustrate this further yet
- turn with me please to [Rom 9:10-18](#)
- a particularly clear statement of this is also found in the first chapter of Ephesians
- turn with me please to [Eph 1:4-5](#)
- beloved, God's "purpose" and God's "will" are one and the same
- what God "purposes" God "wills"
- look at [Eph 1:9, 11](#)

- according to Eph 1:9, 11, God has “purposed and willed in Himself” the salvation of His people, the “elect”
- and it is “. . . . . according to the good pleasure which He purposed in Himself . . . . . and according to the counsel of His will.”
- the N.A.S.B. rendered Eph 1:9; “. . . . . according to His kind intention which he purposed in Him . . . . .”

### III. God's Work:

- in describing how this plan of God actually finds its fulfillment, how it begins to operate, the Apostle Paul uses the word “works” in Eph 1:11
- God “. . . . . works all things according to the counsel of His will.”
- this is Paul’s way of saying that God is not only entirely responsible for the conception and the initiation of “His purpose and will” but He is equally responsible for carrying it out
- to “work all things” means to “work all things” necessary for salvation
- turn with me please to Phil 1:6
- another statement of this great truth is found in II Tim 1:9
- I don’t know how it can be said any clearer
- these explicit statements, tell us that God has decided upon a certain course of action
- He made a decision, He has planned a course of action, and He is putting that plan into operation
- but, God not only “predestined” all who believe, but Scripture also tells us that God “appointed” us to believe and to salvation
- turn with me please to Acts 13:48, I Thes 5:9
- the word “appoint or appointed” comes from the Greek word “horizo” which is a synonym of “proorizo” the Greek word rendered “predestined”
- “horizo” literally means; ‘to mark out definitely and determine, or to appoint’
- the word can be rendered “destined” as did the translators of the N.A.S.B.
- friends, the word here expresses the unalterable outworking of God’s sovereign plan for the salvation of the “elect”
- why did God do this ???

- why did God “predestine” you and I to salvation ???
- turn with me please to Eph 2:4-5
- that’s why Paul said so adamantly in Eph 2:8 that salvation “. . . . . is the gift of God . . . . .”
- just like Jonah 2:9; ““Salvation is of the Lord”

## In Closing:

- are you starting to see how the end of your salvation is “determined” by the beginning ???
- the eternality of your salvation is so because of what God has done for you in the beginning
- and the agent by whom your salvation is carried out is ultimately God Himself
- over and over again Scripture states that it is God who carries out your salvation unto the end
- look once again at **Rom 8:28-30**, and let’s read it together in its entirety and note all the references to what God is doing
- loved ones, God Himself not only planned but “purposed” your salvation
- **God Himself not only thought of it, initiated it, but it is God ultimately who is carrying out and putting your salvation into operation**
- yes, believers are “. . . . . the called according to the (eternal ) purpose” of God the Father
- it is emphatically His “purpose”
- it’s God’s “purpose”, God’s plan, God’s resolve, God’s will
- and when God decides to do anything, God performs
- that’s why Paul heart gushed open with the opening statement in **Eph 1:3; “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”**
- and one of the ways that God has “. . . . . blessed us with every spiritual blessing . . . . .” is when He “predestined” us to eternal life in Christ Jesus
- read attached
- shall we pray