

Morning Sermon Outline
December 27, 2015, Romans 8:28-30
“Predestined to Glory”

I. *Predestination must be understood in regard to the fullness of God’s purpose and power –*

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. (Romans 8:28)

“It is unthinkable that a God of infinite wisdom and power would create a world without a definite plan for that world.”

Lorraine Boettner

When an architect draws up plans for a building, the more details he includes in the plan, the easier he makes the job of the builder. The same is true in almost any important field of endeavor. The old saying is, “He who fails to plan, plans to fail.” Now we cannot plan everything, we lack the knowledge and we lack the power. We cannot anticipate unforeseen events and surely we cannot control them.

The 1871 Chicago fire which changed the history of that city was said to have been started by a cow kicking a lantern. What if that lantern was not lit, or placed near the cow or the cow would not have kicked when the cow kicked?

We cannot and do not control such things, but God does – The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD. (Proverbs 16:33 NKJ)

Micaiah, the prophet, warned the wicked king Ahab he would die in battle -²⁸ But Micaiah said, "If you ever return in peace, the LORD has not spoken by me." And he said, "Take heed, all you people!" (1Kings 22:28 NKJ)

Ahab made every precaution, including disguising himself so he would not be killed in battle and yet he was -

³⁴ Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded." (1Kings 22:34 NKJ)

For all things to work together for good, all things must be under God’s control, even the smallest things, like the cast lot or a bow drawn at random. Even sinful things are under God’s control –

²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the LORD and against His Christ.' ²⁷ "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ "to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. (Act 4:26-28 NKJ)

II. *Now what people really don’t like is predestination in regard to salvation / Heaven and Hell –*

²⁹ 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. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (Romans 8:29-30)

Objection: What about having a will and a free will? “Pastor, predestination is wrong it makes us robots?”

1. *Scripture tells us clearly that human beings have a will –*

A. *In the NKJV there are several verses in Scripture that reference freewill offerings, these verses are the only ones that use the word freewill –*

Exodus 35:29; Exodus 36:3; Leviticus 22:18, 21, 23; Leviticus 23:38; Numbers 15:3; Numbers 29:39; Deuteronomy 12:6, 17; Deuteronomy 16:10; 2 Chronicles 31:14; Ezra 1:4; Ezra 3:5; Ezra 7:16; Ezra 8:28; Psalm 119:108; Amos 4:5

B. *The only verses that use the phrase “free will” are also all about offering sacrifices –*

NKJ Leviticus 1:3 *“If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD.*

NKJ Leviticus 19:5 *“And if you offer a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD, you shall offer it of your own free will.*

NKJ Leviticus 22:19 *“you shall offer of your own free will a male without blemish from the cattle, from the sheep, or from the goats.*

NKJ Leviticus 22:29 *“And when you offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, offer it of your own free will.*

None of these verses are talking about salvation, coming to God, sin, God's sovereignty or Predestination, they are only speaking about offerings and sacrifices and the fact that they should be given voluntarily.

C. God's commands imply that we will decide either to obey or disobey, implying that man makes decisions, has a will –

^{NKJ} Deuteronomy 28:1 "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. ² "And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God: (Deuteronomy 28:1-2 NKJ)

¹⁵ "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: (Deuteronomy 28:15 NKJ)

2. Scripture does not tell us our wills or free will save us, rather scripture says just the opposite –

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13 NKJ)

A. We don't seek God –

¹⁰ As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (Romans 3:10-11 NKJ)

B. We don't choose Christ –

¹⁶ "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. (John 15:16 NKJ)

C. We do not by nature (sin nature) do what is best –

Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil. (Jeremiah 13:23 NKJ)

Our wills are not free from God's sovereign will and control. Joseph's brothers throw him into a pit; they sell him into slavery because they did not like his dreams about their bowing to him. Did they end up bowing to him, to Joseph? Yes, they did! -

²⁰ "But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive. (Genesis 50:20 NKJ)

Our wills are also not naturally free from sin – Jeremiah 13:23; John 8:34 - ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. (John 8:34 NKJ) Remember in chapter 7 Paul spoke of the law of sin, which rules in our lives if we are without Christ.

III. This is the main point about Predestination, foreordination, justification, etc... here – God does it! God does it all!

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. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (Romans 8:29-30 NKJ)

1. whom He foreknew – *Could be said, fore-loved –*

The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. (Jeremiah 31:3 NKJ)

2. He predestined *Predestined, not after destined –*

3. these He also called *Called*

4. He justified *Justified*

5. He also glorified *Glorified*

The point here being from start to finish the work of God for our salvation was HIS work, it is what He does, what He will do –

² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrew 12:2 NKJ)

¹³ "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last." (Revelation 22:13 NKJ)

From heaven He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Arnold Brevick