

Predestination And Foreknowlege

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For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. **Rom. 8:29-30**

- I. For whom he did foreknow...
 - A. God is an eternal being; He has no beginning and no end.
 - B. This is a concept that is beyond our ability to comprehend, as long as we are living in the bounds of time.
 - C. Since God is outside of time, the fact that a person lived 6000 years ago or 1000 years from now has no bearing at all on God's knowledge of that person.
 - D. If they are one of the "elect" (that is, one of God's redeemed children) then God knows them and always has.
 1. The prefix "fore" is only to help our limited understanding; it does not have any other significance than that.
 2. Since we are locked into time and cannot comprehend anything outside of that framework, God added a prefix on the fact that He knows his own.

- II. He also did predestinate ...
 - A. These two verses contain two of the four times this word is used in the Bible.
 - B. These verses, along with the other two verses that use a form of this word in Ephesians 1:5 and 1:11, have been used to build a complete doctrine that turns all the rest of the Bible upside down.
 - C. The word shows that God had a plan and that He did not just turn everything loose and wait to see how it turned out by chance.
 1. God has ordered things from the beginning and all will work according to his plan.
 - D. This word does not mean that God predestinated particular individuals to go to heaven and particular people to go to hell.
 1. It does mean that God predestinated those who are redeemed to go to heaven, and those who refuse his mercy to go to hell – it does mean that.
 2. It is a terrible error and destructive to souls and to the gospel to teach that God has chosen certain ones to go to hell and there is nothing they can do to be saved.
 3. This flies in the face of everything else the Bible teaches about the character of God and his disposition toward lost mankind.
 - E. In these two verses the context makes it clear that God predestinated us to be conformed to the image of his Son that He might be the first fruits of many brethren.
 1. God determined beforehand that all that Christ did and all the workings of God in the lives of the saved would be to make them like Jesus.
 2. That is God's primary objective and it is very simple and straightforward.
 3. Man was created in the image and likeness of God, but sin has marred and corrupted man.

4. God's goal through redemption and sanctification is to restore man to the image and likeness of God.

As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness. *Psa. 17:15*

- III. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called...
 - A. Again, what did we just learn that He had predestinated people to?
 1. To be conformed to the image of his Son.
 - B. Who are these but the saved, redeemed ones out of the human race?
 - C. No one can be saved unless they are called.
 1. All are called, but few respond to the call of God.
 2. The Calvinists teach that God "effectually" calls the elect.
 3. In other words, God calls everyone, but it is only a pretence to those who are not of the elect; God only calls the elect "effectually."
 - D. Those who are saved have been called by God and they have responded to the call.
- IV. And whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.
 - A. God not only has a plan to save the lost, but He also has a plan for them after they are saved.
 - B. God does not just save people and pile them up somewhere like firewood and go after some more.
 - C. We are saved and sanctified; He keeps working on us to bring us into conformity with the image of his Son. (the Bible calls it conversion)
 - D. Justified means "made just" or righteous.
 1. He effects a real change in our nature that transforms us from being habitually sinful to being habitually righteous in our thoughts and actions.
 2. This is a work of God in our soul, not just our own determination to do right.
 3. It is God's predestinated work to conform us to the image of his Son; He was the "Just One."

Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: **Acts 7:52**

- E. Glorified means He makes us to shine. He makes us an honorable representation of God, as opposed to the depraved, ungodly creature we have been.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. **2 Cor. 4:6-7**

That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; **Phil. 2:15**

1. Again, this is God's work to accomplish what He predestinated for his redeemed sons of men.

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the

right hand of the Majesty on high; **Heb. 1:3**