

Sermon Notes

Exposition of Romans
Those Whom He Foreknew
Romans 8:29

Introduction

An Arminian Understanding of Foreknowledge

When the Bible talks about election, all it means is that in eternity past, God looked down the corridor of time and saw who would believe and who would not. He then elected those He foresaw would believe.

Arminian Jack Cottrell, [H]aving set forth these conditions for being in Christ, God foreknows from the beginning who will and who will not meet them. Those whom He foresees as meeting them are predestined to salvation.

The Calvinist/Reformed Understanding of Foreknowledge 2LBC 3.5 (cf WCF)

Paragraph 5. Those of mankind that are predestinated to life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, hath chosen in Christ unto everlasting glory, out of His mere free grace and love, without any other thing in the creature as a condition or cause moving Him thereunto.

5. Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, hath chosen, in Christ, unto everlasting glory, (Eph. 1:4, 9, 11, Rom. 8:30, 2 Tim. 1:9, 1 Thess. 5:9) out of His mere free grace and love, without any foresight of faith, or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving Him thereunto: (Rom. 9:11, 13, 16, Eph. 1:4, 9) and all to the praise of His glorious grace. (Eph. 1:6, 12)

I. What God Foreknows

- A. Foreknowledge is a part of God's omniscience
- B. Can God's foreknowledge simply be what He knows ahead of time?

"So if the "corridor of time" (the events of history) that God looked at did not exist in a divine decree and also did not yet exist in reality, what was God looking at and where did it exist?" Keith Mathison



I Sermon Notes

- C. The Arminian position is untenable because you something eternal, existing alongside and outside of God (history of events), which by necessity are not fixed. This is impossible. Rom. 11:36; Eph. 1:11
- D. Foreknowledge is personal, it is of certain people, not events relating to those people.

“Foreknowledge here is not some specific propositional knowledge about people, but it refers to God’s relational knowledge of certain people themselves.” Bruce Ware

The term "to know" in the Bible often means a personal, intimate knowledge of someone. Gen. 4:1; Gen. 18:19; Ex. 33:17; Deut. 9:24; 1 Sam. 2:12; Jer. 1:5; Hos. 13:4-5; Amos 3:2; Matt. 7:23; Jn. 10:14, 27; Gal. 4:8-9.

- E. Foreknowledge is Divine, personal predetermination. Acts 2:23; 1 Pet. 1:20
- II. Prescience Breaks the Logic of the Chain
- A. Each of the links are forged with Divine activity.
 - B. Prescience takes the very link and makes it depend on man. In the Arminian scheme how can any of the links logically follow?
- III. The Connection with Romans 8:28
What makes better sense of Rom. 8:28???

To Foreknow is personal and determinative, it is to forelove, which is equivalent to unconditional election according to grace.

