
Words of Truth

We Do Read About Predestination In The Scriptures

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Many, if not most, false doctrines do come from the Scriptures. Before you think I just wrote something crazy, consider a few verses most reading this article will know: *“And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen”* (II Peter 3:15-18).

We have to handle the word of God correctly so that we do not twist the Scriptures to our own destruction (II Timothy 2:14-18). The subject matter we are about to address is one that is not that difficult. The word “predestinate” appears twice in the KJV. The word “predestinated” also appears twice in the KJV. When we look at the contexts of where those words are and the meaning of those words, you’ll see how people get those words twisted. It is my hope that this study will help us not fear discussing predestination. We are going to start with examining the four verses I mentioned above.

The Four Passages In The KJV That Mention A Form Of The Word Predestine

Here are the four verses: *“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... Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will... In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will”* (Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 1:5, and Ephesians 1:11).

If you read the context of Romans chapters seven and eight, you see the contrast of the carnal Law of Moses versus the spiritual Law of Christ. Chapter eight has much to do with the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit. Like Paul did with the Galatians (Galatians 3:1-5), he wrote

about the work of the Holy Spirit among the brethren in Rome to get them to understand the supremacy of the Law of Christ over the Law of Moses. The context of Ephesians chapters one and two is about how the Gentiles were able to be saved as God had foreordained long ago. Again, the Holy Spirit is part of that evidence (Ephesians 1:13). Similarly, we can see how the work of the Holy Spirit was evidence of God accepting the first Gentile converts in the first century (Acts 10:1-11:18).

In addition to the contextual studies, when you define the terms translated “predestinate” and “predestinated” you get clarity. All four verses (Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 1:5, and Ephesians 1:11) have the same Greek term being used. That term is “προορίζω”. That term means: “to limit in advance, i.e. (figuratively) predetermine: — determine before, ordain, predestinate. To predetermine, decide beforehand; in the NT of God decreeing from eternity; to foreordain, appoint beforehand” (Strong’s # 4309). So, in both contexts, God had determined in advance that justification would be offered through Christ. He had decided beforehand that the Gentiles could be saved. God sending Jesus to bring salvation to all mankind was decided before the world even began (Titus 1:1-3 and I Peter 1:18-25). Those truths are far different than what is typically taught concerning forms of the word “predestine”.

The False Doctrine Of Predestination

When people teach the doctrine of predestination what they normally mean is that God has chosen certain people to be saved and others to be lost. This false doctrine removes all freewill. This false doctrine asserts that God sets things in order according to His pleasure and man’s will cannot change that (<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/predestination-biblical-beautiful-practical/>). This doctrine is not what was taught in the four verses we looked at, their contexts, or meant by the definition of the word. Furthermore, it is God’s will that all be saved (I Timothy 2:4 and II Peter 3:9). Therefore, that doctrine is absurdly ignorant.

Mankind has always had freewill (Genesis 2:15-3:19, Deuteronomy 5:29, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Joshua 24:14-16, Ecclesiastes 7:29, Acts 2:37-41, and Philippians 2:12). God has not given His word to a select group of people. He has made known His saving Gospel message to all of humanity, giving all the opportunity to be saved (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:14-20, Luke 24:47, Acts 2:21, Acts 13:26, Romans 10:9-18, Romans 16:24-26, Galatians 3:8, Colossians 1:23, Titus 2:11-14, and Hebrews 8:1-13).

Conclusion

God’s foreknowledge is undeniable (Isaiah 46:9-10 and Acts 2:22-36). We might do well to think of predestination as God’s planning of things beforehand. If you make a grocery list before you shop, you’ve done something similar. You also know having a plan and making it happen are not the same thing. It really is that simple!