

What About Predestination?

I. Introduction:

A. This is commonly taught: "...Essentially, God predetermines that certain individuals will be saved. Numerous scriptures refer to believers in Christ being chosen (Matthew 24:22, 31; Mark 13:20, 27; Romans 8:33, 9:11, 11:5-7, 28; Ephesians 1:11; Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 1 Timothy 5:21; 2 Timothy 2:10; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1-2, 2:9; 2 Peter 1:10). Predestination is the biblical doctrine that God in His sovereignty chooses certain individuals to be saved..." (<https://www.gotquestions.org/predestination.html>). *See referenced website for their whole argument.*

1. Being chosen includes action from a person (**II Thessalonians 2:13**).
2. The Ephesians were called chosen (**Ephesians 1:1-4**). Remember, what happened with them (**Acts 19:1-7**).
3. Even when a person was hand picked (i.e. **Luke 6:13-16**), that did not mean that they would be saved (**John 6:70-71**).
4. This doctrine confuses God's foreknowledge (i.e. with Jacob & Esau).

B. Though this subject can be confusing if one is not grounded in the Scriptures. It is also simple to refute. This, like most false doctrines, is a twist of Scriptures (**II Peter 3:15-18**). Thus, one must be careful to study contexts and rightly divide the text (**II Timothy 2:14-18**). On top of that, which we will do in a bit, how about some reasoning from the word of God (**Acts 17:1-2**)?

1. It is God's will that ALL MEN BE SAVED (**Isaiah 45:22, Isaiah 48:16-18, Ezekiel 33:11, John 3:14-17, I Timothy 2:1-6, and II Peter 3:9**).
2. Salvation is not limited to a certain number of people (**Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:47, John 1:29, Romans 1:16, Titus 2:11, I John 2:1-2, and I John 4:14**).
3. All men will NOT be saved (**Matthew 7:13-14, Luke 13:23-24, John 12:47-48, Romans 16:24-26, Philippians 3:18-19, II Thessalonians 2:12, and Revelation 21:8**).
4. This false doctrine also removes the biblical truth of time and chance (**Ecclesiastes 9:11**).
5. So, this doctrine makes ZERO sense. It is unreasonable.

II. Body: The terms "predestinate" and "predestinated" are truths in the Scriptures (**Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 1:5, and Ephesians 1:11**).

A. So, what does those words mean (**Proverbs 1:5; 2:2; 3:13**)?

1. The four passages above all have the same Greek word "προορίζω" which is defined as: "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).
2. The same Greek term is also translated "determined before" (**Acts 4:28**) and "ordained" (**I Corinthians 2:7**).

3. **Romans 8:28-30** - He determined beforehand that those whom He called through the Gospel (**II Thessalonians 2:14**), that love Him (**I John 5:1-3**) would be conformed to the image [likeness] of Christ (**Colossians 3:10** and **I John 2:3-6**) to be justified (**Acts 13:38-39**, **Romans 2:13**, **Romans 3:24**, **Galatians 2:17**, **Titus 3:7**, and **James 1:21-26**) and glorified (**Romans 8:17**).

4. **Ephesians 1:5; 1:11** - Adoption (**Galatians 4:1-7**) and inheritance (**Colossians 1:12**) according to the will of the Lord (**Hebrews 2:1-4**). Note, the freewill of the Ephesians is clearly recorded showing plainly that God did not force anything on them or control them directly through the Spirit (**Acts 19:1-7** [as shown earlier in outline] and **Revelation 2:1-7**).

B. God did predetermine several things and they all tie to His foreknowledge of what is to come (**Acts 2:22-41**; cf. **Isaiah 46:1-13**). **Note: This is where a lot of those in this error are confused. They confuse foreknowledge with God controlling everything.*

1. For example, salvation through Christ (**II Timothy 1:9-10** and **I Peter 1:17-20**).

2. For example, though it ties to the above, eternal life (**Titus 1:1-3**).

3. For example, our Father has or will determine the Day of Judgment (**Mark 13:31-32**).

C. Mankind has always had freewill (**Genesis 2:15-3:19**, **Deuteronomy 5:29**, **Deuteronomy 11:26-28**, **Deuteronomy 30:15-20**, **Joshua 24:14-16**, **Ecclesiastes 7:29**, **Isaiah 55:6-7**, **Matthew 7:24-29**, **Matthew 11:28-30**, **John 7:16-17**, **Acts 2:37-41**, **Philippians 2:12**, **James 4:6-10**, and **Revelation 22:17**).

1. Think about "whosoever will not" (**Ezra 7:26**).

2. Think about "whosoever will" (**Luke 9:23-26**).

3. Think about Martha and Mary (**Luke 10:38-42**).

4. Think about hear and do instructions (**Deuteronomy 5:1**, **Luke 6:46-49**, **Luke 8:19-21**, **I Timothy 4:16**, and **James 1:18-27**).

5. Think about how the doctrine of predestination, as often taught by men, makes God a respecter of persons; which He is not (**II Samuel 14:14**, **II Chronicles 19:7**, **Romans 2:1-11**, **Ephesians 6:9**, and **I Peter 1:17**).

6. Think about Judgment of the Lord (**Jeremiah 17:10**, **Matthew 16:27**, **John 5:28-29**, **II Corinthians 5:10**, **II Timothy 4:14**, and **Revelation 22:12-14**).

III. Conclusion: Plain and simple (**Acts 10:34-43**).