

Doctrine of Predestination

1. The Doctrine of Predestination is worthy of review for it is part of the historic faith of the church as per the creeds of Christendom.
2. Definition of Predestination. From the sea of humanity, God has chosen, before the foundation of the world, to save a fixed number of souls to receive the gift of salvation. This gift of God was made completely apart from God having foreseen any future act or decision on the part of those who are chosen.

The Baptist Confession of 1689

Chapter 3: Of God's Decree

3. By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated, or foreordained to eternal life through Jesus Christ, to the praise of his glorious grace; others being left to act in their sin to their just condemnation, to the praise of his glorious justice.
 - *1 Timothy 5:21 I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.*
 - *Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*
 - *Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*
 - *Romans 9:22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,*
 - *Jude 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*
4. These angels and men thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed, and their number so certain and definite, that it cannot be either increased or diminished.
 - *2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

- *John 13:18 I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.*
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.
- *Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*
 - *Ephesians 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:*
 - *Ephesians 1:11 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 8:30 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.*
 - *2 Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*
 - *1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*
 - *Romans 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.*
 - *Romans 9:16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.*
 - *Ephesians 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved ;)*
 - *Ephesians 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*
6. God has an elect people. Election does not refer exclusively to a class of people, such as the Jews of old, but to specific individuals. Election is personal.
- *Romans 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.*

7. God's election is not based upon God looking into the future and seeing that people are going to believe in Him. Election is based upon God's foreknowledge of what He will do with His own.
- *1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*
8. Election is based upon the secret counsel of God's good will and pleasure, to the praise of His grace and glory.
- *Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

Special Note.

"Foreknowledge may be taken in two ways:

First, for mere prescience, foresight, or understanding, that such a thing will be, before it comes to pass. Thus a mathematician certainly foreknows that at such a time there will be an eclipse. This sort of foreknowledge is in God, who at one commanding view sees all things that ever were, or are, or ever will be. But such a prescience is not the cause why any thing is so or so, though in the event it certainly will be so, as the mathematician who foresees an eclipse does not thereby cause that eclipse to be.

Secondly, Foreknowledge sometimes signifies counsel, appointment, and approbation. Acts 2:23 *Him being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God.* The death of Christ was not only foreseen, but fore-ordained, as v. 20. Take it thus here; so the sense is, elect according to the counsel, ordination, and free grace of God" (Matthew Henry).

9. Election is either a great safeguard of God's sovereignty or it is a great blasphemy.
10. Election should be believed because the Bible teaches it.
11. One of the main challenges against embracing the doctrine of election is due to a bent in man to safeguard his freedom, even at the expense of God's sovereignty.
12. All of the religions of men attempt to make God a puppet of man's will. Therefore, feelings, emotions, and traditions must bow before the Word of God.
13. When the Scriptures are opened, it becomes obvious that election is taught throughout the Bible.

Supplemental Material

Suggested Reading

- *The Potter's Choice*
- *Chosen But Free*
- *Predestination and Election*

James White

Normal Geisler

James White vs. Paul Barber