

In Love He Predestinated Us

1. This is written to believers, not unbelievers. Those who are already saved are the ones Predestinated.
2. Everything that happens to a person the second they believe in Jesus Christ as Savior is because of Jesus Christ.
3. The first five verses of Ephesians chapter 1 are about Jesus Christ.
 - A. In verse 1, Paul is an apostle of Jesus Christ.
 - B. In verse 1, Paul is writing to those believers in Ephesus who are faithful in Christ Jesus, not to those who are not believers.
 - C. In verse 2, grace to us comes from our heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - D. In verse 3, God is the Father of Jesus Christ.
 - E. In verse 3, God has blessed everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as their Savior with every spiritual blessing in Christ. We do not receive these blessings until we believe in Jesus Christ. Thirty Four things are given to everyone who believes in Christ.

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F. In verse 4 we are elected **in** Christ, not elected outside of Christ to be in Christ. But once someone, anyone, believes in Jesus Christ as Savior they are placed **in** Christ and at that point we share the election of Jesus Christ. By being **in** Christ we are made holy and blameless before God. This is in part because when we believe in Jesus Christ as Savior we are imputed with Divine Righteousness, making us eternally ‘holy’ before God’s perfect Justice.

G. Now, in verse 5, when we are put **in** Christ we share the Predestination of Christ.

The most confusing and discouraging things about studying ‘Biblical Predestination’ is that many people, including local pastors think and teach that God predestines people to believe and not to believe. They are so afraid of impugning the Sovereignty of God that in fact they end up blaspheming God. However, some, seeing the problem try to teach that God predestines people to believe, but does not predestine others not to believe. They decide for themselves that they will not believe. This means that God gives freewill to only select people through history and not give free will to others but predestinates them. And this also means that everyone with free will uses it to decide against God, against Jesus Christ which again attacks the attractiveness of the cross of Christ. Still others teach that God predestinates some to believe but He is not responsible for those who do not believe and this is ‘beyond our understanding.’ One of the reasons it is beyond our understanding is that it is confusing, and not logical and certainly is not Biblical. Still others just try to skip over or avoid the issues involved in predestination.

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So, let's take a look at Biblical Predestination.

- I. Let's start with the Greek word used here in Ephesians 1:5. It is the *Aorist Active Participle* of the Greek word *proorizo*. This is a compound verb made up of the prefix *pro* which basically means *before*, plus *horizo* which basically means *to determine*. To determine or decree beforehand. The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament (Greek Lexicon) makes several things very clear.

“The peace of the Christian Church has been disrupted due to the misunderstanding which surrounds this word. It behooves the Church to consider the divinely intended meaning of this word by carefully examining the critical passages where it is used.”

- II. Here in Ephesians chapter 1 we are in the section of the Work of the Trinity in the Salvation of mankind (verses 3-14). Again, this is the longest discourse in the Word of God.
 - A. The work of God the Father (verses 3-6).
 - B. The work of God the Son (verses 7-12).
 - C. The work of God the Holy Spirit (verses 13-14).

All the work of the Father is directly related to the Work of His Son, Jesus the Christ. His work starts by placing everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior into eternal relationship with His Son (verse 3). This is every believer's position or location for

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all eternity. This does not change regardless of the life one lives after believing in Jesus Christ. This is your eternal Security.

Verse 4 expresses this position of every believer by explaining that everyone who believes in Jesus Christ shares the Election of Jesus Christ. No one is elected outside of Christ. But, once you believe in Jesus Christ as your savior, you are placed in Christ and therefore you share the Election of Jesus Christ by God the Father. Also, by being in Christ you are sanctified by God. There are three phases of sanctification by God.

First, we have Positional sanctification. Here, we share Christ's set-apartness taught in

1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, (done, accomplished, not a process) saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

Second, we have Experiential sanctification, being in Temporal fellowship by walking in the Holy Spirit by faith, taught in

Ephesians 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

And

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1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; (you are sanctified, set apart to God, and we are to live accordingly) *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality; (which includes promiscuity, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, pornography and things like these.)

But even if you do not live accordingly, you do not lose your Positional Sanctification.

Third, Ultimate or Eternal Sanctification; being eternally in a glorified resurrected body, expressed in

1 John 3:1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. (Positional Sanctification) For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, (Eternal Sanctification) because we will see Him just as He is

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1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, (experiential sanctification) just as He is pure (Positional sanctification.)

III. Positional Sanctification Clarifies Predestination of verse 5.

First, let's correctly translate from the Greek preposition: **having predestinated us** – believers in Jesus Christ. Remember from point 1, this word means to determine or decree before hand; to pre-design. To biblically understand predestination we must examine each of the contexts of this verb.

A. In 1 Corinthians 2:7 where it has an object that is predestined, namely the wisdom of God. His wisdom is predestined for our glory.

1 Corinthians 2:7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

B. One of the most misunderstood passages on Predestination is found in

Romans 8:29 For those whom He (God the Father) foreknew, (He knew from His being Omniscient, everyone who would believe in His Son, as Messiah, Savior) He also predestined (He decreed that everyone who believed in His

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Son in the Church Age would share the predetermined plan for His Son) **to become conformed to the image of His Son**, (Positional truth) **so that He** (His Son) **would be the firstborn among many brethren** (believers only; firstborn means to be the head of a new race or a new creation, which we are in the Church Age.)

Romans 8:30 and these whom He predestined, (with Christ) He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; (He predetermined that everyone who believed in His Son would be imputed with perfect righteousness and therefore Justified) **and these whom He justified, He also glorified.** (In our eternal state with His Son.)

This verse is packed with important doctrines. The Omniscience of God includes foreknowledge. Foreknowledge does not mean He determined those who would believe and those who would not believe. It includes the doctrine of Predestination. Here you will note that predestined has a personal object of all believers. This is in contrast with 1 Corinthians 2:7 where the object of predestination was a thing—His Wisdom. Here it refers to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Romans 8:29-30 also includes the doctrines of Positional Truth, Election, Justification and Glorification. Six vital doctrines to

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everyone who believes in Jesus Christ and they serve as an invitation to every unbeliever.

We are Predestined in Christ, not outside of Christ.

We have Positional Truth in Christ.

We are Elected in Christ, we are not elected outside of Christ.

We are Justified in Christ.

We are Glorified in Christ.

So, Christian, if you ever think things are so bad, you have nothing to be thankful for, here are five blessings you can give continual thanks for. Many Christians know Romans 8:28 but are not even aware of 8:29-30 which is why Romans 8:28 is a reality for the believer.

C. Then, there is one predominate action predestined by God and that was the crucifixion of His Son. Acts 4:28.

So, we have had a thing predestined, people predestined and an action predestined by God.

D. Now we come to our passage Ephesians 1:5, where the subject of the predestination is *adoption*.

In love He (God the Father) predestinated us (Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ. No one is predestined to believe or not believe. But, those who do believe are predestined) to adoption (which we will cover next).

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IV. There are five Greek words used to communicate the doctrine of predestination. Each one gives new insight into Predestination.

A. Our word *proorizo* to determine before or predesign. Ephesians 1:5, 11 and Romans 8:29-30.

B. *protithemi* to place before or predetermine. We will come to this word in

Ephesians 1:9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him – which He (God the Father) placed before in Him (Jesus Christ.)

C. *prosthesis* which refers to a predetermined plan. And this one is found in

Romans 8:28 And we know (from the Word of God) that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His purpose*. (that is according to His predetermined purpose for believers who walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and therefore love Him with Spiritual love.)

D. *proginosko* to foreordain, to preordain, to know previously

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1 Peter 1:20 For He (Jesus Christ) was foreknown (by God the Father) before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times (incarnation) for the sake of you

This word also appears in a passage we have noted with another Greek word for Predestined.

Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, (God knew in eternity past everyone who would use their free will to believe in His Son) He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, (so you can see that predestination takes place *in* Christ, not outside of Christ.) so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

E. prognosis Foreknowledge—this comes from the Omniscience of God.

1 Peter 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

Because of this foreknowledge God predetermined intimate fellowship with those who are sanctified (experiential sanctification) by the Holy Spirit. This word is very close to the previous word, so it is most difficult to distinguish in meaning.