

Love and Predestination Go Together

Biblical Predestination

- I. The Greek word used here in Ephesians 1:5 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.
- 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 sentence 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).

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.

- 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

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point 1, this word means to determine or decree beforehand; to pre-design. To biblically understand predestination we must examine each of the contexts of this verb.

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

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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 which 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 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.

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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.

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

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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

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

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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.

V. Predestination and the Free Will of man

There are certain things that disturb many people about Predestination and free will. One of those is the crucifixion of Jesus Christ recorded in Acts 2:23 and Acts 4:28.

Acts 2:23 this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of

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**God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of
Godless men and put Him to death.**

This man. Jesus, in His humanity.

delivered over. To you and to the Romans to be crucified.

by the predetermined plan. This is the root word from which the word we are studying for ‘predestination’ *proorizo*. You will notice that the word is a compound word made up of the prefix *pro* – before, plus the main verb *horizo* which means ‘to determine’ therefore meaning, to ‘determine before’ or to ‘decree before.’ That is, before it occurs in history. So here in Acts 2:23 we have the main verb ‘to decree.’ Then we have the Greek word translated **plan**. This word means *will, purpose, intention, or decree*. These two words are variously translated:

Translation Version	Translation Text
NIV	God’s deliberate plan
New Living Translation	His prearranged plan
English Standard Version	according to the definite plan
Berean Study Bible	God’s set plan
Berean Literal Bible	by the determinate plan
King James	by the determinate counsel
New King James	by the determined purpose
The Message	following the deliberate and well thought out plan
Contemporary English Version	already planned
Good News Translation	in accordance with His own plan
God’s Word Translation	determined in advance

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I think from these you get the main thrust of the Greek translation.

this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, This of course refers to the Omniscience of God.
you. Religious Jews of the Sanhedrin.

nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men. Romans.

and put *Him* to death. Physical death. Now the issue is that since God 'predetermined' that Jesus was to die on the cross, does this mean He predestinated these Jews and Romans? No!

Let's see if a simple illustration will help to understand the working of God's decree and the free will of man. A good football coach knows his own players. And by scouting, he knows how the other team will react under certain conditions. So, he has a predetermined plan on how to score. He does not control the players on either team but by his foreknowledge he devised a play and it works out just as he thought it would. Now God, by His Foreknowledge knows how the religious Jews will think and act and He knows the procedure of the Romans. So, by His predetermined plan, Jesus is crucified on the cross. By the way, even the history of crucifixion is in the foreknowledge of God.

Crucifixion seems to have originated with the Assyrians and Babylonians. It was used systematically by the Persians in the 6th century B.C. by the time of the return of the Israelites from the Babylonian captivity to Israel. Alexander the Great brought it from there to the eastern Mediterranean countries in the 4th century B.C. The Phoenicians introduced it to Rome in the 3rd century B.C., setting up for the crucifixion of our Savior for the payment for our sins.

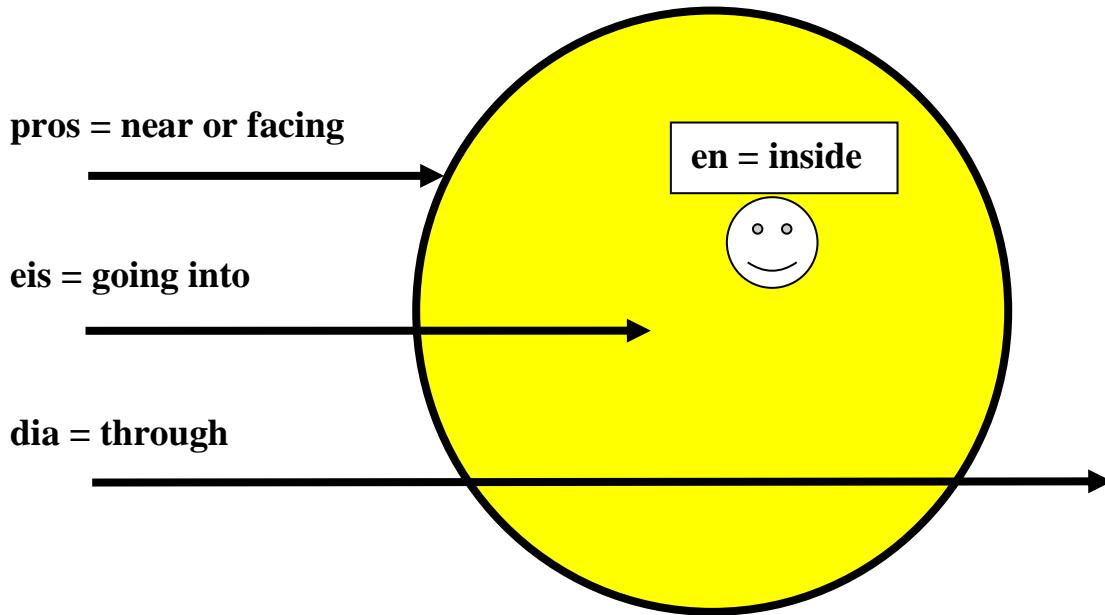
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VI. Predestination directly involves the Love of God, the Omniscience of God and the Sovereignty of God.

The Sovereignty of God and the Free Will of man co-exist by Divine Decree. The things that God Predetermined, like the crucifixion of His Son on the cross take into account God's Sovereign will and man's free will making decisions that God knew man would make. Knowing the decisions of man, does not mean that God determined these decisions, any more than the acts of the football players were predetermined by the coach. He knew from his knowledge of his own team and scouting reports how the other team would react to certain actions by his team. Predestination involves the Love of God in that God's plan is motivated by His Divine Love for the entire human race.

VII. Now there are certain things that do not involve the free will of man but are totally dependent on the Sovereignty of God. Election and Predestination of believers does not depend on the free will of man in any way. Once the unbeliever, sinner, believes in Jesus Christ as Savior, God places that person "in Christ." By placing that believer "in Christ" he now shares the Predestination of Jesus Christ and the Election of Jesus Christ. Now, let's see if a simple chart, of the first year of Greek helps.

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Preposition pros –near or facing

Preposition eis –going into

Preposition dia –through

Preposition en –inside

So, if we look at Ephesians 1:4, **just as He chose us in Him**, the preposition is not *eis* which would involve being chosen outside of Christ and then placed into Christ. But, the preposition means that once a person believes in Jesus Christ as Savior, one of the 34 things God does for every believer in the Church Age is to place that believer in Christ. And people, give thanks to God that we are placed ‘in Christ,’ for it is because we are ‘in Christ’ that we share His Sonship and now, we pray, ‘heavenly Father.’ He is our Father because we are predestinated to be in Christ after faith in Christ as our Savior.

The same point is made with our Predestination. Read carefully

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Ephesians 1:5 in love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

You will note that God predestined believers—those who have already believed in Jesus Christ as Savior, to share the adoption of Jesus Christ. Also note this is from the kindness of Divine Love—Spiritual love is Kind.

The conclusion here is that both election and predestination have nothing to do with the will of man. The only part we have is to believe in Jesus as our Savior. Then, with no decision on our part, God places us in Christ. And when in Christ, God predestines us to share the Predestination of Jesus Christ and the Election of Jesus Christ. Neither Election nor Predestination occurs outside of Christ but in Christ.

VIII. Election and Predestination are Christ-centered, not man-centered. The unbeliever is not predestined, but only the one who has already believed in Jesus Christ as Savior. We receive them as Salvation blessings from God. They are among the 34 blessings we received from God the moment we believed in Jesus Christ. When you are depressed or down about life...count your blessings from God that you can never lose!

IX. Election and Predestination are God's grace blessings to everyone who believes. We did nothing to be Predestined in Christ. This was the Sovereign decree of God for everyone who believes in

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Him. Now, as a result of being Elected and Predestined in Christ, we have opportunity for a multitude of blessings in time and Eternity. These depend on the decisions we make from our God-given Free Will. How you view yourself should be on the basis of your being Elected and Predestinated in Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:16 Therefore (after salvation) from now on (in our lives here on earth) we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, (By God placing him there under the Predetermined plan of God, to place everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior in the Church Age. This is true in no other dispensation) *he is a new creature*; (By the doing of God He makes every believer a New Spiritual Creation) **the old things passed away; (from our Inherited Sin Nature and before we became believers) **behold, new things have come**. (By being Elected and Predestinated in Christ.)**

2 Corinthians 5:18 Now all *these things are from God*, (the Kindness of His Divine Love and

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His Decree) who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

2 Corinthians 5:19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

in Christ. What this means is that when you think of yourself, you are to no longer distinguish yourself or even other believers by human standards, such as race, rich, poor, successful in this world or unsuccessful, attractive or not so attractive (remember Morning Star was created in ‘perfect beauty’) smart or not so smart, male or female, socially acceptable or unacceptable. You are to no longer *compare* yourself with others, determining them to be superior or inferior to you---shame on you! This is exactly what Morning Star did in the first universe and it caused him to

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sin. Your only attitude or thoughts about yourself is that you are a human being, an alien on this earth and you are in Christ, and you are here to represent Him! This change in thinking will result in a change in your daily life, your standards, things that will affect your emotions and decisions you make each day. Your dress, your speech, your morals and your Spiritual growth. You will soon come to realize that being in Union *in Christ* is a wonderful blessing from God and takes all the load of worry and fear and competition off you.

“Thank you Father that you have destined me to be in Christ, for this is how I shall think of myself and my conduct.”

- X. Predestination is just for those who believe in Jesus as their Savior in the Church Age. The unbeliever is not Predestined to spend eternity in the lake of Fire, separated from God for all eternity.

John 3:18 He (any member of the human race) who believes in Him (Jesus Christ as Savior by his own free will) is not judged; he who does not believe (uses his free will to choose not to believe in Jesus Christ) has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son

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(that is those who do not believe in the Son) will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

- A. The Biblical doctrine of Predestination concerns believers only.
- B. In Biblical Hermeneutics, or the study of the Bible, if the antithesis is not stated, it does not exist. The unbeliever is not predestined to eternal separation from God. He will spend eternity in the lake of fire by his own free choice because he rejects Christ as his/her Savior.
- C. The Biblical doctrine of Predestination does not conflict with human volition or the free will of man but emphasizes it.
- D. The understanding of biblical teaching on Unlimited Atonement verifies that God wills salvation for the entire human race. *God is not willing that any should perish.*
- E. Only when one believes in Jesus Christ, is he predestined by God to be in Christ and share the existence of Jesus Christ.

XI. So now, we conclude our study of Predestination where most studies begin, with definition.

- A. According to the Evangelical Dictionary of Theology: “the biblical use (primarily NT) is salvation and Christological: it is in Christ (Eph. 1:11) and through Christ (Eph. 1:5) and with the goal of our conformity ‘to the likeness of His Son (Rom. 8:29.’” Predestination is an act of God’s will, according

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to God's purpose (Ephesians 1:11), the eternal purpose which God 'accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

- B. Predestination is the work of the Sovereignty of God the Father in eternity past on behalf of every Church Age believer. Only in the Church Age and there is no distinction between believers. He decreed Predestination in Eternity past, before we were ever in existence.
- C. Therefore, Predestination is the Grace gift of God the Father, for every believer of the Church Age. Give thanks for the Kindness of His Love. His Kindness drew us to Him (Romans 2:4) for Salvation and the Kindness of His love Elected us in Christ and Predestined us in Christ.
- D. Predestination means that at initial faith in Christ, God conformed each one of us to the image of His son.

Rom. 8:29 For those whom He (God the Father) foreknew, (foreknowledge of His Omniscience) He also predestined *to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He (Jesus Christ) would be the firstborn among many brethren;* (Oh, people, please see yourself, not as the world sees you but as God sees you—*conformed to the image of His Son.*)

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E. Predestination sets the pattern for much of our salvation.

Romans 8:30 and these (all who believe in the Church Age) whom He (God) predestined, He also called (election in Christ); and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. (All dependent on the working of God, not man.)

F. Predestination means every believer in Jesus Christ has an eternal inheritance in Christ.

Ephesians 1:11 also (along with having the mystery of His will, verse 10, along with that) we have obtained an inheritance, (how and when equals) having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

You cannot lose this inheritance! But, you can add to your riches in heaven at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

G. Our glory is dependent on the Predestination of the wisdom of the mystery.

1 Corinthians 2:7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden (until the dispensation of the Church) *wisdom* which God predestined

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before the ages to our (believers of the Church Age) glory; (here is your glory, not anything based on human standards.)

Always be in prayer, thanking God that after you believed in His Son for eternal Salvation, He elected and predestined you in Christ for all eternity!!!