

PREDESTINATION

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love

He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

(Ephesians 1:3–6)

In Him

also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

(Ephesians 1:10–12)

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

(2 Thessalonians 2:13)

God predestined—He decreed before the foundation of the world—that in Jesus Christ we should be holy and blameless in His eyes, and that He will call us His sons and daughters. God has chosen that through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in Jesus Christ, we receive salvation. He has also chosen that the believers will be conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29).

Just as with everything else, we have to look at predestination from God's point of view. Our own interpretation of the Word of God apart from the teaching of the Holy Spirit leads only to confusion. Our God is not a God of confusion, but a God of peace (1 Corinthians 14:33). We have to stop lowering God to our level—to our way of thinking and reasoning. He is not a man; He doesn't think like a man. We have to let God elevate us to His level.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Neither are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,

And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

(Isaiah 55:8, 9)

As we grow in the knowledge and grace of God, we start looking at everything and everyone (self included) through His eyes. God’s ways become our ways, His thoughts our thoughts, and His desires our desires. We learn to lean on God’s understanding and not our own (Proverbs 3:5).

I would like you to read in your Bible chapter nine in the book of Romans. I don’t know about you, but when I read this chapter for the first time, I was shocked, especially after reading the following verses:

For [God] says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

(Romans 9:15)

So then [God] has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

(Romans 9:18)

It took me a long time to get it all in perspective. I had to start with what I knew for certain. I knew that the gospel message is for all people and that God wants all to come to Him. But is it going to happen? Not according to the Word of God.

God predestined that He will have mercy and compassion on those who will believe in Him, the One True God. God does not harden anyone’s heart just to harden his heart. The gospel message does that. Not all people will receive God’s provision for salvation—Jesus Christ. God in His infinite wisdom knows who will receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. He knows the ones who will reject Jesus and in Him the eternal life and the forgiveness of their sins. God endures with much patience the vessels of wrath (unbelievers) prepared for destruction, and He does it to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy (believers), which He prepared beforehand for glory (Romans 9:22, 23). The gospel message affects us differently; the humble in heart will receive God’s mercy while the heart of the proud will be hardened. That is why

God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

(James 4:6)

Pride will shut the door of one’s heart to the humble Christ.

And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac;
for though the twins were not yet born, and had not done anything good or bad, in order that God’s purpose

according to His choice might stand, not because of works,
but because of Him who calls,
it was said to her, “The older will serve the younger.”
Just as it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”
(Romans 9:10–13)

God hated Esau because in His infinite wisdom and foreknowledge, God knew that Esau would sell his birthright for a meal, while Jacob would believe in Him. Esau represents the sinful nature, and we know that flesh and blood will not inherit the kingdom of God. Esau stands for everything God hates—the natural, earthly, and thus demonic. God uses even the ones who will reject Him for His purposes.

For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;
neither are they all children because they are Abraham’s
descendants, but: “Through Isaac your descendants will be
named.”

That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children
of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as
descendants.

(Romans 9:6–8)

In the book of Ephesians we read about predestination and election. The apostle Paul writes about the mystery of Christ which, as he explained, is “the truth that Gentiles as well as the Jews are fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ through the gospel (Ephesians 3:6).” God made the two into one new man (Ephesians 2:15).

Predestination—God’s plan of salvation for all

In God’s perfect plan, the Gentiles as well as the Jews were predestined for salvation from the beginning.

. . . God our Savior,
who desires *all men* to be saved and to come to the
knowledge of the truth.

(1 Timothy 2:3, 4)

And [Jesus] said to them, “Go into all the world and
preach the gospel to *all creation*.”

(Mark 16:15)

God has not predestined individuals—some to eternal life and some to eternal damnation. God has predestined, chosen, and elected that the Gentiles will receive the

same salvation as the Jews—through Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Thank you Jesus!

As He says also in Hosea,
“I will call those who were not My people, ‘My people,’
And her who was not beloved, ‘Beloved.’ ”
“And it shall be that in the place where it was said to
them, ‘You are not My people,’
There they shall be called sons of the living God.”
(Romans 9:25, 26)

For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in Him will
not be disappointed.”

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the
same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who
call upon Him;

for “*Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be
saved.*”

(Romans 10:11–13)

Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in
the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called
“Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human
hands—

remember that you were at that time separate from Christ,
excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers
to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without
God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off
have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into
one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of
commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He
might make the two into one new man, thus establishing
peace,

and might reconcile them both in one body to God
through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

And He came and preached peace to you who were far
away, and peace to those who were near;

for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to
the Father.

(Ephesians 2:11–18)