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**A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
FOUNDED OCTOBER, 1984**

PREDESTINATION

STUDY GUIDE



PREDESTINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:29-30

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover those whom He predestined, He also called, and those whom He called, He also justified; those whom He justified, He also glorified.

Ephesians 1:3-12

Adorable is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ Who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavens in Christ; inasmuch as, He selected us in Him before the founding of the world so that we would be holy and without fault before Him. Because of His love and according to the purpose of His will, He predestined us to become His sons through Jesus Christ. Praise be to the glory of His graciousness, by which we have been honored in the Beloved. In Whom, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the abundance of His grace. This abundance of grace is revealed to us by the wisdom and moral insight given to us. He has made known to us the secret of His will, according to His purpose that He determined in Himself, which is to administer at the proper time (when all things are complete) everything through Christ. Everything in heaven and earth are brought together in Him. In Christ, everything is distributed according to God's purpose, Who works everything according to His own will. We who trusted in Christ exist to praise His glory.

1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter, selected as an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, grace and increasing peace have been given to you by the purification of the Spirit (for the purpose of compliance) and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

THEME

There seem to be different schools of thought concerning predestination. Some see predestination as life laid out in advance without any possibility of change; their attitude is "Whatever will be will be." Others deny predestination, arguing that God does not predestine anyone. Only the Bible is capable of giving us the accurate definition of predestination.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Those who teach unconditional predestination have no hope of salvation for the lost.
- B. One who believes in unconditional predestination has no salvation message.
- C. Those who teach unconditional predestination lose sight of God's purpose for their lives.
- D. What does the Bible say about predestination? Does it say anything about predestination?
 - 1. The Bible reveals some definite facts concerning predestination.
 - 2. The word "predestinate" is mentioned two times in the Bible (KJV).
 - 3. The word "predestinated" is also mentioned two times in the Bible (KJV).
- E. In order to understand predestination correctly, we must understand foreknowledge correctly.
 - 1. The word "foreknew" is mentioned only one time in the Bible (KJV).
 - 2. The word "foreknow" is mentioned only one time in the Bible (KJV).
 - 3. The word "foreknowledge" is mentioned two times in the Bible (KJV).
- F. We must ask ourselves some questions concerning predestination.
 - 1. What is predestination?
 - 2. Who is predestined?
 - 3. When were we predestined?
 - 4. How were we predestined?
 - 5. What was predetermined?

II. WHAT IS PREDESTINATION

- A. The Greek word for “predestination” is *proorizo* (pro-or-id’-zo). It means to limit in advance or predetermine.
- B. *The New American Heritage Dictionary* definition of predestination is “to fix upon, decide, or decree in advance; foreordain.”
- C. Predestination is setting one’s journey before it begins.
- D. According to these definitions, the individual does not have the freedom to exercise his will by making decisions of his own choosing.
- E. From these definitions, we can conclude that predestination eliminates all choices of the one who is predestined.

III. WHAT IS FOREKNOWLEDGE

- A. The Greek word for “foreknowledge” is *prognosis* (prog’-no-sis). It means forethought, or to know beforehand.
- B. *The New American Heritage Dictionary* defines foreknowledge as “knowledge or awareness of something before its existence or occurrence.”
- C. We can conclude that foreknowledge can predict future events before they happen, but it does not in any way affect the will of an individual.
- D. God, through foreknowledge, can declare our destiny without interfering with our will.
- E. Foreknowledge is **knowing** something in advance; predestination is **determining** something in advance.

IV. WHO IS PREDESTINED

- A. According to Romans 8:29, we, the believers, are predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus.
 - 1. God has predetermined that believers are to take on the image of Jesus.

2. The Greek word for “conform” is *summorphos* (soom-mor-fos’). It means “jointly formed or having the same form as another.”

B. Who is predestined? Anyone who accepts Jesus as his/her Lord and Savior. (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:5)

V. WHEN WERE WE PREDESTINED

A. We, the believers, were predestined before the foundation of the world. (Ephesians 1:4)

B. Through foreknowledge, God knew that man would fall and need a redeemer.

C. Before man was created, God predetermined redemption through Jesus.

D. Although redemption for man was predetermined by God, not all men accept and enjoy the benefits of redemption.

1. Everyone is given the opportunity to accept or reject redemption.

2. No one is predestined to be eternally separated from God.

3. Separation from God is determined by man, not God.

VI. HOW WERE WE PREDESTINED

A. God knew beforehand who would accept Jesus.

B. The foreknowledge of God announced our destiny. (I Peter 1:2)

VII. WHAT WAS PREDETERMINED

A. God predetermined that all believers should become like Jesus.

B. God predetermined that we should be adopted into His family and become His children. (Ephesians 1:5)

1. It is one thing to be the creation of God; it is another thing to be a child of God.

2. It is one thing to be a part of God’s handiwork; it is another thing to be a part of God’s family.

VIII. SUMMARY

- A. The Bible does teach predestination, but not in the way many believe and follow.
- B. Predestination is not synonymous with foreknowledge.
- C. God, through His foreknowledge, can accurately predict our destiny without tampering with our will.
- D. We, the believers, are predestined to become like Jesus.
- E. We, the believers, are predestined to become God's adopted children.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. The teaching of unconditional predestination is contrary to the Biblical teaching of predestination.
- B. One who fully believes in unconditional predestination has no hope of salvation for the sinner.
- C. God created man with a free will. This freedom is made obvious in Genesis, chapter three.
- D. God Almighty is Omniscient, which means that He is all-knowing.
- E. Our all-knowing God can announce events before they take place.
- F. We must not confuse foreknowledge with predestination.
- G. God does not predestine men and women to heaven or hell.
 - 1. Men and women choose their destiny.
 - 2. God does have the ability to know which choice men and women will make.
- H. Scriptural predestination is what God has predetermined for those who accept Jesus. All who accept Jesus are destined to become like Him.
- I. We have a mandate from God to go into all the world and preach the gospel to **every** creature.

- J. Why would God give men a mandate to preach the gospel if it could not affect the outcome of an individual's life?
- K. We must not succumb to any teaching that minimizes the necessity of fulfilling God's mandate.
- L. The fields are white; they're ready for harvest. Let's not miss our opportunity.
- M. Those who hear and obey the gospel will be saved; those who reject the gospel will be eternally separated from God.