

PREDESTINATION

Requested Bible Study: Would you do a study on Predestination? There seems to be a lot of confusion regarding this doctrinal subject.

“Theologically, the term has been used to include all things, that is, as a synonym for the total plan of God. From this theological definition it is an easy step for some forms of Calvinism to use predestination in relation to the destiny of the non-elect.” (Ryrie, pg.361)

“The Bible is clear that the elect are predestination, but it never suggests that there is similar decree to elect some to damnation.” (Ryrie, pg.361)

“Predestination is limited to the elect people and assures their present position and future destiny.” (Ryrie, pg.361, Basic Theology)

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| This lesson will study five aspects of the doctrine of PREDESTINATION. |
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1. In the plan of God, God decreed and predestined Jesus Christ to represent redemptive history.

By being in union with Jesus Christ, the believer shares in this decreed and predestined redemptive history (2 Cor.5:17; 2 Thess.2:13; Eph.1:4-6).

“Predestination is that aspect of foreordination whereby the salvation of the believer is taken to be affected in accordance with the will of God, who called and elected him in Christ unto eternal life. (ISBE, pg.2435)

2. The Greek word for predestination is (proorizo/ pro + horizo/ to fix a boundary beforehand).

Proorizo is never used in the NT to state that some are predestined to hell.

Maybe this illustration will help you understand the theology of PREDESTINATION. “There is an airplane on the run-way ready for departure to a predetermined destination. When you board this plane, you enter into the predetermined destination of this airplane.

3. Predestination of the believer (elect) originates from the sovereign will of God (Acts 13:48).

All people are equally lost even the elect because of Adam’s original sin (AOS) (Rom.5:12-21).

Theologians refer to Predestination as the subject of God’s foreknowledge (Acts 2:23-24).

It is God who predestines. Search the following five passages for this principles.

- Acts 4:28 – Death of Jesus Christ

- Rom.8:29 – Conformity to image of His Son
- 1 Cor.2:7 – God’s wisdom (Col.1:26-27)
- Eph.1:5 – Adoption of believer
- Eph.1:11 – Inheritance of believer (Eph.3:4-6).

4. Condemnation of the unbeliever becomes personalized with negative volition rejecting the gospel of Jesus Christ (John 3:16-18).

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Rom.8:1) (8:34-39).

God decreed to predestine those who believe in the grace gospel of Jesus Christ and to leave in just condemnation those who reject it (Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.15:3-4; John 3:18, 36; 1 Tim.2:3 -6; 4:10; 2 Pet.3:9).

5. Unlimited atonement is associated with the doctrine of Predestination. It teaches that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the entire human race (Heb.2:9; 1 John 2:2; Titus 2:11; 2 Pet.2:1).

Unlimited atonement is the basis for sin never being an issue for the unbeliever’s salvation (John 1:29; 1 Pet.1:19; Rom.3:24-26; 2 Cor.5:18-21).

It is unlimited in scope but limited in application because of free will or volition. Therefore while all are savable not all will be saved (Rev.20:11-15).

“Nor was it that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood not his own. Otherwise, he would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes the judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.” (Heb.9:25-29)