

## PREDESTINATION

Predestination is the teaching that God selects who will go to heaven. You may be selected. I may be left out. I have two sons, Andrew and Cary. God may select Andrew and decide Cary shall miss heaven and go to hell. I praise God they are both saved men with saved families headed to heaven.

*Every reference to predestination in the Bible is to saved people and not sinners.* If you can accept this statement, you will not be confused by the predestination argument that says God selects some and not others to occupy heaven. Just what has God *predestinated* in reference to the saved? Let's take a look:

- *Heaven* is predetermined as the eternal abiding place of those who come to Christ and ask Him to save them. Ephesians 1:11 reads "*In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*" Well before the first person exercised faith in God to be saved, God had prepared an inheritance for them in his great universe called "heaven" that would be the home of the saved. I am not going to purgatory when I die- I am going to heaven. That was decided long before I was saved on April 11, 1965. I am not going to Mars to live my eternity. I am going to heaven.
- Our *spiritual state* we receive upon being saved by faith in God was predestinated. Ephesians 1:4 says "*According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*" It was predestinated by God that every sinner who would repent and turn to Him for salvation would be a new creature with a spiritual likeness to God. We don't start behaving like animals when we get saved. We start behaving like God. By the way, if you know someone who "got saved" and didn't change, they

never got saved. God makes a new creature like unto Him when He saves a sinner.

- The sinner's *position in Christ* upon being born again was predestinated by God. Ephesians 1:5 reads "*Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.*" I never became God's cousin when I got saved; I became His Son. I never became His friend; I became His son. He had that relationship arranged before the first person was saved. I John 3:2 says "*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*" I am a son, not a prophet.

Often God's *foreknowledge* is mistaken for predestination. God has never had a yesterday, today, or tomorrow. God has always known all things. God read today's newspaper headlines 14 hundred billion trillion years ago, so to speak. God has already attended my funeral. He doesn't have planning seminars or strategy sessions with His heavenly hosts. All things have always been settled and therefore known to God. Romans 8:29 reads "*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*" Before I got saved, God already knew I would be saved and the day and time it would happen. Please do not confuse God's knowledge of always knowing all things with *predestination*. Knowing all things forever is *foreknowledge*.

Because of God's foreknowledge, He knows who will be saved and when. No one ever snuck-up on God and got saved. God has never yelled across heaven and said to Archangel Michael "you'll never guess who just got saved. I am in a state of shock." God has never yelled to Gabriel "hurry, find my pen. Another person just got saved and I need to write their name down in the Lamb's Book of Life before I forget it." God has always known who would be saved. Not because God pre-selected, that is, predestinated, them to be saved. He simply knows all things at all times including who the

“whosoever” are that would call upon the name of the Lord and be saved.”

May I ask a question? If God does not have the foreknowledge to know who will be saved, how will He know when the bride is complete so He can rapture her home?

The doctrine of predestination, which is an unsound biblical doctrine, nullifies the following:

- *Evangelism.* Why spend billions of dollars annually to summons sinners to Christ in far away places like Africa if they are going to be saved without being preached to because they are predestinated. If predestination is true, every person pre-selected by God to be saved **will** be saved regardless of evangelistic efforts to win them. Stop all missionary work immediately! Use the time and money for something else.
- *Preaching the Gospel.* I Corinthians 1:21 “*For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*” My father, Pastor G. D. Hogan, spent 47 years of his life preaching to sinners inviting them to Christ. Why? If God has predetermined whom He will save, why not go fishing and stop preaching?
- *Altar invitation waste of time.* After almost every message I preach, I invite sinners to come to the altar, repent and accept Jesus as Savior. Two sinners are sitting on the same pew in the sanctuary. The preacher has completed his message. How does the preacher explain to the two sinners “It is time to make a choice. Will you accept Christ or will you reject Him? By the way, God may have already set forth one of you, or maybe both of you, to go to hell.”
- *Personal Salvation* Why accept Jesus as Savior if He has already accepted you to go to His Heaven? If predestination is true, the bible is due a major overhaul. Verses such as Romans 10:13 “*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*” and John 6:37 “*Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out*” need to be removed along with hundreds more.

### ***Illustration of the predestination belief***

Those who support the doctrine of predestination have at times given the following illustration to explain this teaching:

God made heaven. Heaven was lonely for no people were there. For sure, the Bible teaches in Isaiah 53:6 *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”* Romans 3:11 reads *“There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.”* Sinful man does not seek for God; God seeks for him. God envisioned a marvelous heaven occupied only by Himself. At the gate outside heaven stood the vast host of mankind. Man turned away from heaven’s gate not desiring to be in eternity with God. Fearing no man would be in heaven, God reached outward to men with His mighty hand and grabbed as many as He could by the collar and dragged them inside the gate of heaven. Now, God would have company in heaven. Those He dragged in **are the predestinated!**

What a foolish thought! This illustration totally leaves the preaching of Jesus Christ out of the picture. For sure, man flees from God. But what was God’s remedy to bring men to Him? He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die at Calvary so that as we *preach* Jesus to sinners, they are drawn to Him: John 12:32 *“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”* This illustration leaves out the all-important work of the Holy Spirit bringing sinners to God: Revelation 22:17 *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”* This illustration leaves out the church whose commission is to win the sinners to Christ.

### ***Illustration opposing predestination***

This is a clear, simple illustration of the flaw contained in the teaching of predestination:

When I go fishing, I take a fishing pole with line and a hook. I place bait on the hook. I cast into the sea. I do not cast for a certain fish such as a big one or a little one or a black one or white one or a certain species. I am seeking *any* “whosoever will” fish that will get on the hook- not a predestinated fish. When I snare the fish, I reel it to the boat. I take the fish off the hook and place it in the live well of the boat and close the lid. When the fish was caught on the hook during casting, it was a “whosoever will” fish. When it is taken off the hook and enclosed safely in the live well, it is a “predestinated” fish.

I was a sinner swimming in the sea of life. A group of saints cast out a life preserver called the Gospel. I chose to take hold. God never chose for me. God never guided the life preserver over my neck. I was reeled in and saved from drowning in sin. Some of my friends ignored the life preserver and went to hell. After I was placed in Christ, I learned that He had many predestinated benefits for me, an 11 year-old “whosoever will” drawn to the saving grace of Christ by the Holy Spirit.

The teaching of predestination, that is, God selects who goes to heaven and not the individual selecting Him, is not supported by the Bible. Every reference to predestination in the Bible is to those who are saved- not to sinners.

A question was presented to D. L. Moody, the great evangelist: “Brother Moody, who are the elect?” His answer was “the whosoevers that did” choose Jesus. “Well then, Brother Moody, who are the non-elect?” His answer was “the whosoevers that didn’t” choose Jesus.

AMEN!