

Predestination And Free-Will

Does God Predestine Based On His Foreknowledge?

Many Christians are told that God has looked into the future to see who would “accept Christ” and therefore those people are the ones whom God has predestined to be saved. Where is this idea stated in the Bible? This idea is a false doctrine, perhaps based on a misunderstanding of scriptures like Romans 8:29 and Romans 11:2. After the fall of Adam, if God ever looked forward in time, the only thing He saw was this:

Genesis 6:5 - “And **GOD saw** that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.”

If we look at Romans 8:29 and Romans 11:2 in context, we will see plenty of evidence for election by God’s sovereign grace and zero evidence for that election being based on God looking into the future and seeing people accepting Christ:

Romans 8:28-33 - “28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to **them who are the called** according to his purpose. 29 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. 30 Moreover **whom he did predestinate, them he also called**: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of **God’s elect**? It is God that justifieth.”

God foreknew that there were none that seeketh after God (Romans 3:11) and knowing that, He had no choice but to call people out of the world if He was going to have a people for Himself. God does the electing. Sinners do not elect themselves to be saved by choosing Christ or by repenting or by anything else they DO.

Romans 11:2-8 - “2 God hath not cast away **his people** which **he foreknew**. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, 3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. 4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? **I have reserved to myself** seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. 5 Even so then at this present time also there is **a remnant according to the election of grace**. 6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of

works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. 7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and **the rest were blinded** 8 (According as it is written, **God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear** unto this day.”

Note in verse 5 above, that election is according to grace, NOT according to foreknowledge. If it was according to God’s foreknowledge of our acceptance of Christ, it would be according to works and not according to grace. Note also in verse 7 that God blinded the rest. He did not intend for the rest to be saved, only His elect. Does that sound unfair? Remember, “who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him?” (1 Cor. 2:16) and also “The LORD hath made all *things* for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.” (Prov. 16:4). Also, if God were to be FAIR, everyone would end up in hell.

If God looked down the corridors of time and “elected” those he foreknew would “accept” or “choose” him then man would have to be better than God says he is, i.e. dead (Eph 2:1). You would therefore have to concede that there is some good in man that is capable in his own strength to choose God. If God elected people the way that is suggested by Arminians/free-willers then no one would come to Christ because God would have found no one in the future that would have the ability to choose him. Unless the carnal (unsaved) man is not as dead as God says he is, God MUST (absolutely needs to) FIRST regenerate the soul of man to heed the call of the Holy Spirit and respond, which is why the raising of Lazarus from the dead is such an apropos picture of salvation. Lazarus could not come out of the grave and RESPOND TO the cry “Lazarus come forth!” UNTIL Christ had first raised him from the dead.

Summary: This article is a section of a much larger article on the Bible doctrines of Election and Predestination called “Who accepts Whom?”. You are urged to check out that larger article for many other thought provoking questions pertaining these “Doctrines of Grace”.
