

Predestined for Adoption as Sons

February 17, 2019

Ephesians 1:1-3 ESV

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God...

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

4 even as he chose (*eklegomai - to pick out, choose, select*) us in him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before him. [In love]

5 [In love] he predestined (*proorizō - predestinate, decide beforehand, predetermine, appoint beforehand, appoint beforehand*) us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

- **God's Sovereignty** (*3 components*)
 - **Man's Free-Will** (*the exercise and finality of voluntary choice*)
 - **God's Foreknowledge** (*knowing before*)
 - **God's Predestination** (*pre-design, determine in advance, eternal strategy in temporal design*)

Deuteronomy 4:39 ESV

39 know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.

Psalms 135:5-6 ESV

5 For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

6 Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

Daniel 4:34-35 ESV

34 [Nebuchadnezzar] ...for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;

35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

- **Man's Free-Will** (*the exercise and finality of voluntary choice*)

Deuteronomy 30:19 ESV

19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live.

Joshua 24:15 ESV

15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Luke 10:11-12 ESV

11 "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near."

12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Hebrews 5:14 ESV

14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

- **God's Foreknowledge** (*knowing before*)

"Returning to England after the Revolutionary War, Maj. George Beckwith, London's spymaster in the colonies, remarked bitterly that 'Washington did not really outfight the British; he simply out-spied us!'"

Job 31:4 ESV

4 Does not he see my ways and number all my steps?

Psalms 139:1-4 ESV

1 To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

Hebrews 4:12-13 ESV

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

1 Chronicles 28:9 ESV

9 ...for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.

- **God's Predestination** (*pre-design, determine in advance, eternal strategy in temporal design*)

2 Kings 19:25 ESV

25 Have you not heard that I determined it long ago? I planned from days of old what now I bring to pass...

Psalms 37:23 ESV

23 The steps of a man are established (*kuwn - prepare, order, establish, to be fixed, determined, fashion*) by the LORD, when he delights in his way.

Psalm 139:5 ESV

5 You hem (*tsuwr - confine, secure, beseige, enclose*) me in, behind and before, and lay (*shiyth - to set, appoint, make*) your hand upon me.

Psalm 139:16 ESV

16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed (*yatsar - fashion, predetermine, preordain*) for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Hebrews 12:1 ESV

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...

Hebrews 12:7 ESV

7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

- **The Mysterious, Incomprehensible Divine Interaction** (*of 2 or more components*)

Proverbs 16:9 ESV

9 The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

2 Kings 19:27-28 ESV

27 But I know your sitting down and your going out and coming in, and your raging against me.

28 Because you have raged against me and your complacency has come into my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will turn you back on the way by which you came.

Proverbs 21:1 ESV

1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

1 Peter 1:1-2 ESV

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect (*eklektos - picked out, chosen, select*) exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 according to the foreknowledge (*prognōsis - foreknowledge, forethought, prearrangement*) of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood.

- *God's sovereignty is a perfect blend of His foreknowledge, His predestination and man's free will.*
- *He predestines because He foreknows. He foreknows because He predestined. Both are simultaneously true in God's sovereignty.*
- *Does foreknowledge come before predestination, or does predestination come before foreknowledge? Does God foreknow because He predestined, or does He predestine based upon His foreknowledge?*

Acts 2:23 ESV

23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan (*horizō - to appoint, decree, determine, ordain*) and foreknowledge (*prognōsis - foreknowledge*) of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

- *What God foreknew in the hearts of man, He used to execute His perfect purpose and plan in the crucifixion and sacrifice of His Son Jesus.*
- *What God foreknew in the heart and failure of Peter, He used to break Peter's pride to cleanse, restore and strengthen him to lead the Church after Pentecost.*

Luke 22:31-34 ESV

31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,
32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

33 Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death."

34 Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

- *In His **FOREKNOWLEDGE**, God knew:*
 - *that Peter's faith would not fail*
 - *the deepest needs of Peter's heart*
- *In Peter's **PREDESTINATION** as a son to be conformed to the image of Jesus, God orchestrated the perfect trial - when, where and how - using the present circumstances and even using Peter's failure - to confront and heal Peter's deepest needs.*
- *In the perfection of God's genius, purposes and plans, He orchestrates men's hearts, men's evil intent, the surrounding circumstances, the times and the seasons, to not only execute His plan of salvation for all, but to also simultaneously chasten, break, restore and rebuild Peter at the point of Peter's deepest need.*

Romans 8:28-31 ESV

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

29 For those whom he foreknew (*proginōskō - know before, foresee, to have knowledge before hand, foreordain*) he also predestined (*proorizō - predestinate, decide beforehand, predetermine, appoint beforehand, appoint beforehand*) to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Jude 1:24-25 ESV

24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,

25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

"Oh, happy hour! may it be hastened! When I cross the Jordan, the work of sanctification will be finished."

—Charles Spurgeon, May 15, Evening Reading