

**Session 2:**  
**Paul on Predestination:**  
**Predestination in Ephesians:**

- 1) The Greek word for predestination is προορίζω. It is made up of two words:
  - a) πρό
    - i) Meaning: “before, in front of, earlier than”
  - b) ὀρίζω
    - i) Meaning: “to separate, appoint, designate”
  - c) We see it used in Ephesians 1:5 and 1:11.
- 2) We take note of the Greek word because it helps us understand it. Consider the Greek word for what is translated as “who were first to hope:” προηλπικότας. It is made up of two words:
  - a) πρό
    - i) Meaning: “before, in front of, earlier than”
  - b) ἐλπίζω
    - i) Meaning: “to hope, expect, trust”
- 3) What is the similarity between the two Greek words?
  - a)
- 4) What does the perfect tense of the participle: “having first hoped” mean?
  - a)
- 5) What is the context into which Paul is using the word “preordained?”
  - a)

**Predestination in Romans:**

- 1) See Romans 8:28-35. How does Paul speak of predestination?
  - a)
- 2) How is Jesus the firstborn? How are we, as children of God “among man brothers” and therefore will “be conformed to the image of his Son...”? Consider 1 Cor. 15:20.
  - a)

**Foreknowledge and Election – the Same or Different?:**

Consider a quote from the Formula of Concord:

- 1) “First, we must carefully note the difference between God’s eternal foreknowledge and his eternal election of his children to eternal salvation. For *praescientia vel praevisio* (that is, that God sees and knows everything before it happens—what is called God’s foreknowledge) applies to all creatures, good and evil. It means that God sees and knows everything that is or will be, everything that happens or will happen, whether it is good or evil, because all things exist in the presence of God, whether they are past or future, and nothing is hidden from him. As it is written in Matthew 10[:29\*]: “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.” And Psalm 139[:16\*]: “Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.”

Likewise, Isaiah 37[:28\*]: “I know your going out and coming in, and your raging against me.”

- 2) Mistakenly thinking that God’s foreknowledge and election are the same leads to the Calvinist idea of double predestination.
  - a) What does double predestination hold?
    - i)
    - ii)
  - b) How does this mix foreknowledge and election?
    - i)
    - ii)

Consider this quote from the Formula of Concord:

- 3) “...people might fall into burdensome thoughts and say: “Since God has foreseen his elect to salvation ‘before the foundation of the world’ (Eph. 1[:4\*]) and since God’s foreknowledge does not fail, nor can anyone change or impede it (Isa. 14[:27\*]; Rom. 9[:19\*, 11\*]), if then I am foreseen to salvation, it cannot harm me if I practice all kinds of sin and vice without repentance, despise Word and sacrament, and have no concern for repentance, faith, prayer, or godly living; still I will and must be saved, for what God foreknows must take place. And if I am not foreknown, it will not help if I hold to God’s Word, repent, believe, etc., for I cannot impede or change God’s foreknowledge.”
- 4) What other problems are there with double predestination?
  - a)
  - b)

Consider another quote from the Formula of Concord:

- 1) “The eternal election of God, however, or *praedestinatio* (that is, God’s preordination to salvation), does not apply to both the godly and the evil, but instead only to the children of God, who are chosen and predestined to eternal life, “before the foundation of the world” was laid, as Paul says (Eph. 1[:4\*, 5\*]). He chose us in Christ Jesus and ‘preordained us to adoption as his children.’”
  - a) What does this note about God’s election?
    - i)
    - ii)
- 2) If God only elects those who are saved and his election is offered to all through Jesus Christ, how is anyone damned? An easier way to get at this is to ask: how are we saved?
  - a)
- 3) Since we are saved in this way (only by God’s work), why aren’t all saved?
  - a)

### Use of Reason:

1. Magisterial:
  - a.
2. Ministerial:
  - a.

3. Which one do we believe?
  - a.
4. **Foreknowledge** means that God knows \_\_\_\_\_ things before they happen.
5. Election is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Election is not \_\_\_\_\_.
7. If you are saved, who is responsible? \_\_\_\_\_.
8. If you are damned, who is responsible? \_\_\_\_\_.
9. **Predestination:** God has **chosen** the people who are saved.
  - a. Is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Submits my \_\_\_\_\_ to the Word of God.
10. **Double Predestination:** God has chosen the people who are saved **and** damned.
  - a. Is not \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Places my \_\_\_\_\_ above the Word of God.

*“This election is not to be probed in the secret counsel of God but rather is to be sought in the Word, where it has also been revealed.”*

*Damnation is self-inflicted, whereas salvation is from God’s grace.*

So, why are some people saved and others are not?

- Answer: we do not know. Only \_\_\_\_\_ knows.

#### **Take Home:**

I urge you to do the following:

1. Be comforted in God’s election. Remember how this shows how God ultimately does 100% of the saving.
2. Pray that God would grant you peace with the cross of the theologian (i.e. our inability to understand why some are saved and others are not).

#### **Closing Prayer:**

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for predestining us according to your plan in Christ. Thank you for choosing us completely based on your grace and not depending on us. Help us to hear your choosing of us as the gospel comfort that it is. In Jesus’ name, amen.

#### **Bible Passages for reference:**

##### **1 Timothy 2:3-6**

**3** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.** **5** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man<sup>[a]</sup> Christ Jesus, **6** who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

##### **Matthew 22:14**

**14** For many are called, but few are chosen.”

##### **Ephesians 1:3-14**

**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 us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us<sup>[a]</sup> for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known<sup>[b]</sup> to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

**11** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **12** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. **13** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guarantee<sup>[c]</sup> of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,<sup>[d]</sup> to the praise of his glory.

#### **John 10:25-29**

**25** Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, **26** but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. **27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. **28** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. **29** My Father, who has given them to me,<sup>[a]</sup> is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

#### **Revelation 3:5-6**

**5** The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and **I will never blot his name out of the book of life.** I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. **6** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

#### **Romans 11:32-36**

**32** For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

**33** **Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!**

**34**

"For who has known the mind of the Lord,

or who has been his counselor?”

**35**

“Or who has given a gift to him

that he might be repaid?”

**36** For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever.  
Amen.

Romans 9:13 “Jacob I loved; Essau I hated.”

- Paul is saying that only from Jacob’s seed would come the savior... not from Essau. In this way Jesus would come through Jacob’s seed. But theologian of the cross: 100% God’s saving work, 100% my fault if not saved. I am comforted that it is ultimately God who does the saving.