



Delighting in Predestination

Romans 9:11-24

Ephesians 2:1-10

Predestination or Election = God 100% chooses whom he will save

1. Predestination is very clearly in the Bible

Romans 9:11-13, 18

Romans 8:28-30

Ephesians 1:4,5,11

Ephesians 2:1,3,4,8

John 6:44

No-one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Acts 13:48

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honoured the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

See also John 8:34; 8:44; Mark 8:14-33; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; Romans 1:21-23

2. Predestination is very clearly in Church history

Augustine (354-430)

Without God's help we cannot by free will overcome the temptations of this life.

The grace of God does not find men fit for salvation, but makes them so.

The nature of the Divine goodness is not only to open to those who knock. but also to cause them to knock and ask.

A person does not even begin to be changed from evil to good by the first stirrings of faith, unless the free and gratuitous mercy of God produces this in him.... So, therefore, we should think of God's grace as working from the beginning of a person's changing towards goodness, even to the end of its completion, so that he who glories may glory in the Lord. For just as no-one can bring goodness to perfection without the Lord, so no one can begin it without the Lord.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

the *core ecclesia* - the heart of the Church

John Calvin (1509-1564)

God subdued my heart to teachableness.

Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

I am quite certain that, if God has not chosen me, I should never have chosen him.

Jacobus Arminius (1560-1609) -> Arminians -> Five Articles of the Arminians

Synod of Dordt 1618-1619 -> The Canons of Dordt

What was 'in agreement with the Word of God and accepted till now in the Reformed churches' concerning 'Divine Predestination.'

The 5 points of Calvinism.

1. **t**otal depravity
2. **u**nconditional election
3. **l**imited atonement
4. **i**rresistible grace
5. **p**erseverance of the saints

3. Predestination is very clearly for us to delight in

Luke 10:21-22

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth...because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure."

➔ Why is predestination such good news?

With Predestination:

1. The Greatness of God

Ephesians 1:1-14

2. Humility

3. Assurance

4. Comfort

Romans 8:31-35

5. Dependence on God

- Preaching
- Prayer

Without Predestination:

1. *God is less great*
2. *Pride*
3. *Concern*
4. *Worry*
5. *Dependence on people*

➔ **Does this mean that God chooses some not to be saved?**

Romans 9:17-18

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it

See also John 8:34; John 6:44; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6; John 16:7-10.

C S Lewis

There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened.

God works in different ways in election and reprobation

Our place before God

God's huge family

Genesis 15:5; 22:17; Revelation 7:9; Revelation 19:6

Conclusion

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory for ever! Amen.

Further Investigation

Music:

- *Mercy and Grace* by Shai Linne and Timothy Brindle: <https://spoti.fi/3Q5PNA8>
- *Romans* by Psallos <https://spoti.fi/3Qfe5aw>

Podcast:

- Cooper and Cary have words: *You have reached your predestination*
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/62-you-have-reached-your-predestination/id1297163772?i=1000571405953>

Articles:

- *Watershed differences between Calvinists and Arminians* by John Piper
<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/watershed-differences-between-calvinists-and-arminians>
- *The Very Practical Doctrine of Predestination* by Tony Payne
<http://reformationanglicanism.blogspot.com/2010/02/very-practical-doctrine-of.html>

Essay:

- *Introduction to John Owen's Death of Death in the Death of Christ* J I Packer
https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/packer_deathintro.html

Canons:

- The Canons of Dort <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/canons-dort>

Ebook (free!):

- *What is Predestination?* R C Sproul
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/What-Predestination-Crucial-Questions-Sproul-ebook/dp/B07W118NV1/>

Standard book:

- *Chosen by God* R C Sproul
<https://evangelicalbookshop.co.uk/product/chosen-by-god/>

Deep book:

- *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination* Lorraine Boettner
<https://evangelicalbookshop.co.uk/product/the-reformed-doctrine-of-predestination/>