

Foreknowledge and Predestination

Lesson 35

1. As in Lesson 34, the doctrines of FOREKNOWLEDGE and PREDESTINATION are infinitely IMPOSSIBLE for the human mind to comprehend. Deut. 29:29
2. Our lives are enmeshed in A PLAN, A PURPOSE in which God is SOVEREIGN.
3. Three words come into play which will help us understand God's foreknowledge and predestination.
 - a. CHOSEN refers to God's ELECTION of those who receive Christ and it refers back to the ETERNAL PAST. Ephesians 1:4
 - b. PREDESTINATION has to do with the ETERNAL FUTURE. Rom. 8:29 & 30; Eph. 1:11
 - c. FOREORDAINED refers to OUR WORKS in Christ and speaks of the LIVING PRESENT. Ephesians 2:10
4. The scriptural base for FOREKNOWLEDGE is seen in, among other places, 1 Peter 1:2.
5. Foreknowledge seems to indicate ELECTION but does not NEGATE man's responsibility for OBEDIENCE. 1 Peter 1:2b
- * The great preacher, Charles Hadden Spurgeon, once said of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility, "I cannot make them meet, but you cannot make them cross." The foundational fact in life and in history is that God is, God rules, God is sovereign. His foreknowledge, election, and predestination are only parts of His sovereign will.
6. To understand God's foreknowledge we must first realize that He is OMNISCIENT, "all knowing," "perfect in knowledge." He knows EVERYTHING. Job 37:16
7. God knows everything about the WORLD and NATURE. Psalm 147:4 & 5; Isaiah 40:12, 15, 28; Matthew 10:29
8. God knows everything about MAN. Psalm 94:11; Matthew 10:30; Hebrews 4:13
9. God has all AUTHORITY, POWER and CONTROL. Ps. 139:7-10, 15 & 16; Isa. 46:9 & 10
10. Because God has ALL KNOWLEDGE of events before they occur, He knows who will exercise their FREEWILL and choose His plan of salvation. 1 Peter 1:2.

Note once again, that the ELECT are according to God's foreknowledge.
11. God's invitation is to ALL. Isaiah 55:1 & 6; Matthew 11:28

12. Paul taught the CHOICE of God to young believers at Thessalonica. 1 Thess. 1:4 & 5
- * The result of the foreknowledge of God seems then to be predestination. Predestination means to determine beforehand. “Pre” meaning before and “destined” having to do with destiny. Therefore, predestination means to determine beforehand the eternal destiny of individuals and events.
13. The purpose of God in salvation was DETERMINED beforehand. Rev. 13:8; 1 Peter 1:19 & 20; Ephesians 1:4
14. God pre-determined the “SEED” of Abraham. Genesis 15:2-6; 21:1-3
15. God purposed all history toward ONE MOMENT IN TIME! Galatians 4:4
16. God’s predetermined plan for man’s salvation can be seen in the CROSS and the RESURRECTION. Psalm 16, 22; Isaiah 53; Matthew 27; John 1 and 19
17. The PRIMARY PASSAGE on predestination and foreknowledge is Romans 8:29 & 30.
18. The ultimate purpose in predestination is to be CONFORMED to the IMAGE of Christ. Romans 8:29 & 30; 1 John 3:2; Ephesians 1:4
19. We are also predestined to be conformed to the PURPOSE of His will and to the PRAISE of HIS GLORY. Ephesians 1:11 and 12
20. The final RESULT of predestination is found in Philippians 3:20 and 21.

Conclusion

Predestination from a spiritual standpoint means that Christians are “to be conformed to the image of Christ.” This takes in sanctification (Lesson 23), of which Christ is the supreme example. Christ is the express image of the Father and Christians are to be conformed to the image of His Son. We cannot conform ourselves to Christ. By giving ourselves to Christ, God gives us to Jesus (John 17:3, 6, 9, 11, 20, 21, 24); and in giving us to Him, He predestinated us to be conformed to His image. *God sees us as we shall be!* He looks back to Genesis 1:26-27.

Yes, “we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2).