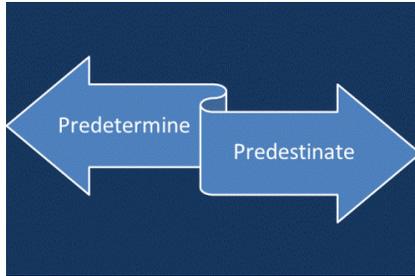


# Lesson 38: Predestination

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## Lesson Introduction



Next to Lordship Salvation, Predestination is one of the biggest issues of our day. Did God really pick and choose who would be born to go to Heaven, and who would be born to go to hell? What kind of a loving God would He be if He had done that? The Bible does tell us that certain people are “predestinated”, and that God “foreknew” certain people. But does this mean chosen for heaven and hell? As we examine this issue, we will see the importance of reading context of Scripture, and interpreting the hard passages by using the easy passages.

In Topic 1 we will begin by examining whether “predestined” means the same as “predetermined”, and look at whether or not God is sovereign. In Topic 2, we will define just what the words “foreknow” and “chosen” really mean, and just what those who are chose, are chosen for. Finally, in Topic 3, we will look at Scripture to see whether or not we really have a choice in where we will spend our eternity.

## Lesson Outline

Topic 1: Is Predestine, Predetermined?

Is God Sovereign?

No Respector of Persons

No Favoritism Involved

Topic 2: Foreknown and Chosen

The God of All Probability

Topic 3: Do You Have a Choice?

God is Always Fair

## Topic 1: Is Predestined, Predetermined?

We're going to look this morning on predestination. Now what does that predestination mean? I want you to really give good attention. This is a very confusing issue in Christianity, many of the seminary people say that some are born to go to hell and some are born to go to Heaven and there is no chance. I have a hard time accepting that and I won't accept that because it's not what the Bible teaches. To me it's a very lukewarming doctrine, because if you believe that certain ones are born to go to Heaven and certain ones are born to go to hell and it doesn't matter, I wouldn't be preaching, I'll be honest with you. You say, But don't you preach because God says to preach? Well yes, God called me to preach, but I also preach because I believe souls can be saved that wouldn't be saved. I believe we are playing a real war; I don't believe it's a false war where it's predetermined who's going to die and who's not going to die and it doesn't matter; I'd have a hard time with that, I really would. Now before the foundation of the world, see God knows everything, God's not in time or space, God doesn't, see time was set for us. God doesn't live in time. There's never been a beginning with God and never an ending. You say, Oh I don't grasp it; well I don't either. There's never been a beginning, there's always been. You say you don't understand it, I

don't understand it either but believe me it's the only way it can be. God has always been. Period. See God knows all things. Now here's where the real issue comes. Does man have a free will to do as he chooses, or did God make us as robots, and we have no choice? And we are going to look at it today.

### **QUESTION 1**

The generally accepted understanding of the word "predestination" is that some are born to go to Heaven, and some are born to go to hell. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### **QUESTION 2**

If certain people were born to go to Heaven, and others were born to go to hell, it would still be important for us to witness. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### **QUESTION 3**

Before time began, God did know who would go to Heaven, and who would not. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Is God Sovereign?**

1 Timothy 2:4, I don't know what more we could have than this, "Who will have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth." All men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. That word "all" means all, it doesn't mean, you know the predestinationists will say, "He will have all men of the elect." No, it doesn't say that, it says "all men". It's all inclusive; it takes into account every man. God does not predetermine who will believe and who will not believe. He does predestinate what will happen if you do or you don't. If you trust Christ, you are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ. If you don't trust Christ, you are predestined to spend eternity in hell. It's all what you do with Christ. But nowhere in the Bible does it ever say man is predestined to have a choice or not have a choice. It says after you have your choice, this is where the predestination comes in. See God knows who will win every ball game, but that doesn't mean he predetermined it without a choice of deciding how you want to play. God knows, believe me He knows everything. Man cannot predict. Now if a person didn't have a choice, that would be the cruelest of all God's could ever be. To say, Well I like this person, this person's got my fancy, but I don't like that person over here, so that person's going to hell. And you say, But God's sovereign. Yes He is sovereign, and God's got the right to do whatever He wants. And that's right, but God also in His sovereignty gave man a choice. IT is very important to understand that.

### **Assignment:**

Memorize 1 Timothy 2:4

### **QUESTION 4**

It is extremely crucial that we take Scripture for what it says, and not add meaning into it. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## QUESTION 5

God has predestinated: (*Select all that apply.*) Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Who will go to Heaven
- B. What will happen if you trust Him
- C. Who will go to hell
- D. What will happen if you don't trust Him

## QUESTION 6

God is sovereign, but in His sovereignty has given man a choice. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## No Respector of Persons

Here's what I want you to understand. One time we were going up to Minnesota to our camp, and we were taking our school kids, and we were in our bus, and we were going up between Rockford and Eau Claire, and to my horror I saw a car going the wrong way on the four-lane highway. I saw a policeman behind him, and he had his lights, and it was awful. Now fortunately, no one was hurt, somehow the policeman got him off the road. But I could see ahead of time that someone was going to have an awful accident. Just because I saw what could have happened, doesn't mean it was predetermined to happen. This is what I want you to understand. God knows, but He does not predetermine your choice. But once you are saved, He predetermines and that's what we are going to look at. Now, I've listed some verses, 2 Chronicles, and Acts, and Romans, I'm going to read them to you real quickly. But I want to show you and I want to make it very, very, very clear that God is no respector of persons. 2 Chronicles 19:7, "Wherefore now let the fear of the Lord be upon you, take heed and do it, for there is no iniquity of the Lord our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts." God, every man, woman, and child that was ever born is equally important to God, there is no respect of persons. He does not say, Well I like that family line, or I like that blood line, or I like that person because he happened to be raised from the right stock. Let me tell you something, God is no respector of persons. God is so fair. Acts 10:34, "Then Peter opened his mouth and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respector of persons." Romans 2:11, "For there is no respect of persons with God." Ephesians 6:9, "And ye masters do the same thing unto them, forbearing threatening, knowing that your master also is in Heaven, neither is there respect of persons with Him." Colossians 3:25, "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong that he hath done, and there is no respect of persons." God is so fair. Now you know, I try my best to always be fair. Now I'm not always fair, because no human being is always fair. I try to always be fair. I tried never to show respect of persons to my children. Whenever I'd say, Julie, you are the most wonderful daughter in the world, I'd lie a little, and I'd say but so is your brother. I'd say, Jimmy, what a wonderful son, and I'd lie a lot, and I'd always say the other one, even if the other one wasn't around, and I never wanted to show respect of persons. I just don't want to do it. I want to be fair. But I'm not always fair. The reason I'm not always fair is because I'm not God, but God is always fair.

## QUESTION 7

Just because God sees what could happen and what will happen, does not mean it is predetermined to happen. *True or False?* Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## QUESTION 8

God knows what will happen, but He does not predetermine your choice. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## No Favoritism Involved

See that's why God said we've got to kind of love each other in spite of ourselves, don't we? But we want to try to be fair. I believe fairness is one of the things that God wants more than anything else. You know He talked about a fair balance, and He wanted a fairness. And you trust, and fair, and I treat this one the same as I'll treat that one. And I should treat the poorest little child in our school the same as the richest. And I should treat them the same. But God always does it, and He says I love you. I had a very sincere person tell me that "I believe God loves everybody but me" and she really believed it. Listen God loves everybody including you. He's no respecter of persons. The word respecter means partiality, favoritism, the teacher's pet. Teachers should have no pets, we should have no favoritism, we should be fair. We should be what God always wanted us to be, and that's what it means. John 3:16, that's the verse quoted more than any other verse in the Bible, yet it's the least understood, "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever..." That whosoever dear friends means you or me or anybody else, "...believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." These predestinationists will say, But that means 'of the elect'. It doesn't mean of the elect, it says 'whosoever.' It doesn't say 'whosoever of the elect.' Look at 2 Thessalonians 2:13, "But we are bound to give thanks always to God; for ye are brethren beloved of the Lord because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation..." How? "...through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth." How did He choose you? Through belief. When you, with your free will decide that I'm going to trust Christ, that's when He chose you. The word 'chosen', it means "to take for one's self, to prefer." But He chooses you after you believe, and then once you believe, once you are a child of God, then you are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ, and we're going to see this in some verses real soon.

### QUESTION 10

According to 2 Thessalonians 2:13, how has God chosen us? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. According to how we live
- B. Randomly
- C. Through our belief
- D. By our heritage

### QUESTION 11

Once you are a child of God, then you are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic 2: Foreknown and Chosen

Ephesians 1:4, and let's look at this verse to show what I mean. "According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world..." Now what did He choose us before the foundation of the world, how did He choose us? He chose us on the fact that we are going to make the choice to accept Christ. "...that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." What are we predestined to do once we are saved? To be holy and without blame before Him in love. Listen every one of us someday are going to be holy and without blame before Him in love, when we get our new bodies up in Heaven. We just talked recently about our two natures, our old and our new nature, and there is a battle going on and it is a battle royal. Now, this Ephesians 1:14 I want you to understand several things. Ephesians was written to the believers. Ephesians 1:1, "Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus..." But let's look at Ephesians 1:13, goes right along with Ephesians 1:4, "In whom also ye trusted..." When? "...after ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. In whom after that ye believed..." What gets you to be God's elect when you believe. "...ye were sealed with the holy spirit of

promise.” See you are sealed by that Holy Spirit and you are predetermined once you’re saved, that you will be in Heaven, and you will be conformed to the image of Christ. You say, But there’s a bunch of Christians that are going the opposite direction, and that’s right. But someday they will be conformed to the image of Christ. You say Well some Christians get taken home to Heaven early because they’re not living for Christ, but someday they are going to be conformed to the image of Christ. Once you’re saved, you’re predetermined to be in the image of Christ, but we all have our free wills to choose or reject or how we want to live. Romans 8:29, “For whom He did foreknow, he did also predestinate to...” what, to what? Not to be saved, “...to be conformed to the image of son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Nowhere does it ever say that anybody is predestined to be saved. To foreknow is to know beforehand, foresee, *proginōskō* in the Greek and it means to know beforehand and foresee. Predestinate means this, it means to limit in advance, and to determine beforehand. *Proorizō* in the Greek, to limit in advance, and determine beforehand or ordain. We are going to be in the image of Christ. The word conform, *symmorphos*, and it means jointly formed, similar, and conformed to, fashioned like unto. We are going to be like Christ in Heaven. He did not predetermine who would believe, but what would happen after the person believed. Always, always it says believe first; always.

**Assignment:**

Memorize Romans 8:29

**QUESTION 12**

What are we predestined to do once we are saved?

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**QUESTION 13**

Once you are saved, you are: *(Select all that apply.)* Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Sealed with the Holy Spirit
- B. Perfect in this body
- C. Predetermined to be in Heaven
- D. Predetermined to be conformed to the image of Christ.

**QUESTION 14**

Nowhere in the Bible does it ever say that anyone is predestined to be saved. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 15**

Predestinate means: *(Select all that apply.)* Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. To limit in advance
- B. To determine a person’s choices
- C. To determine beforehand
- D. To remove all choice

## QUESTION 16

Foreknow means to: (*Select all that apply.*) Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Prevent a person from choosing
- B. Know beforehand
- C. To predetermine
- D. To forsee

## The God of All Probability

Now I want to give you a verse that I think's one of the greatest verses in the world, in the whole Bible, that can be used, it's Matthew 23:37, to show that God gives you a choice. Matthew 23:37, oh I love this one, Jesus was standing there, on the Mount of Olives, we've been there many times, "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together as hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" See God knew before the foundation of the world, that if they had, what would have happened. See God knows all probability. He knows what would have happened if I'd been more faithful, you'd been more faithful, he knows what would have happened if we wouldn't have been as faithful as we are, God knows all things because He's God. There's nothing God doesn't know. But don't ever forget that God knows but He wants you every single day to make your choices and to make the right choices, and you will be blessed by the right choices. He would have gathered Jerusalem as a chicken gathers her young under her wings, and ye would not. God knows everything. God did not make these people in Jerusalem believe in Him or reject Him. Let's look at Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." It's your belief. 1 Corinthians 1:21, "For after that in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." See the world looks at preaching as great foolishness, the world says, Man, you want to waste your life, be a preacher. There's even some Christians, believe it or not, that could actually say, Yes it's good for somebody to be a preacher but I don't want my son or I don't want my daughter to be anything that is serving Christ because that's for others. John 3:18, boy I tell you this says it all, "He that believeth on him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten son of God." When you don't believe, you are predestined to go to hell; when you believe you are predestined to go to Heaven. Habakkuk 2:4, "Behold the soul which is lifted up, is not upright in him, but the just shall live by faith." The just shall live by faith. Luke 7:15, "He said unto the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace." He didn't say, well you are one of the predetermined to be saved, and it's not your faith that saved you, it was me that saved you before you had your faith. Never in the Bible does it say they believed, it says they believed and were saved. It never says in the Bible, never, never, never, they were saved and then they believed.

## QUESTION 18

God knows all the probability of what would have happened if we had made different choices. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## QUESTION 19

The Bible **always** says believe \_\_\_\_\_, then saved.

### Topic 3: Do You Have a Choice?

Now predestination, the way they teach it, of course I believe in predestination the Biblical way, but predestination the way they teach it, is absurd. Why wouldn't it one place say they were saved then they believed? It always says they believed and then were saved. If predestination the way they teach it were true, they would have to be saved before they believed, and they Bible would be very clear about it. Matthew 15:28, "Jesus answered and said unto her, Oh woman, great is thy faith, be it unto thee as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour." But is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. How many does Jesus want to perish? Not willing that any! But see He does not overstep your bounds of your will, you have that choice. Longsuffering, makrothymia in the Greek, it means to be long-spirited, forbearing and patient. God wants everyone to be saved, everyone to be saved. He wants it so much. Luke 2:10, "And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." No, he didn't say I bring you great tidings of great joy and you're going to be for the elect that has no choice, no God is no respecter of persons. Look at Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Again, whosoever, it means everybody. Someone says, Well I'm not one of the elect, I can't be saved. Everybody could be one of the elect. There was no blood clot on the cross. When Jesus died his blood was shed it flowed out to every person, every man woman and child. There's no blood clot there. Jesus loves everybody the same, and that's why I love my Lord. God is no respecter of persons, He loves us all the same.

#### QUESTION 20

Because God is not willing that any should perish, He will overrule some unbelief. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

#### QUESTION 21

According to Luke 2:10, the good news of salvation was only to the elect. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### God is Always Fair

Did you ever feel rejected, did you ever feel rejected as a child? Do you ever feel rejected, some aunt or uncle didn't treat you right? Did you ever feel like your parents did you dirty? Did you ever feel like your boss didn't do you right? Did you ever feel the assessor didn't appraise your house right? Did you ever feel on April 15th you didn't want to pay your taxes because they were too high, and it's not fair? Did you ever feel that? Let me tell you some good news, with God, He is no respecter of persons. A lot of things in life are not fair, a lot of things are wrong in life. But God is no respecter of persons. "But I didn't get treated right, the preacher doesn't like me as much as he likes so and so, so and so doesn't like so and so, and nobody likes me." Let me tell you, the One that counts likes you. The only one that counts, and that's God. He likes you, he loves you. Get over that inferiority complex, God's no respecter of persons. Everything with God is fair, and everything so much in the world is not fair. You're not going to be treated fair in this world. I believe all men ought to have equal rights, and I believe that all men are created equal. But I don't believe all men are equal, because our world isn't what it ought to be, but in God's Heaven, it will be what it ought to be. There's no place in God's eyes for a Christian who's bigoted, or prejudiced. There's no place in God's eyes for us to ever look and say, Well we're superior to so and so, and so and so, in God's eyes we're all the same. Why didn't I have a beautiful voice that I could sing like a nightingale? They say you sound like a nightingale, you know, and it's kind of funny for a man to sound like that. Why? How come I'm not born 7 feet tall where I could play with the Bulls?

Why does God not like me? How come I don't have all the, God's no respecter of persons dear friends, and be glad you're not 7 feet tall and you bump your head every time you come through the door. That's not fair, life's not fair. Listen, God's no respecter of persons and everybody has a choice. Look at Titus 2:11, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men." Let's look at John 12:32, it says, "If I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Hebrews 10:38, "Now the just shall live by faith, but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." Hebrews 10:39, "But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul." What's your choice? Listen, we have a choice, what are we going to do with it?

### **QUESTION 22**

God is the only One Who will ever treat everyone totally fair. *True or False?*

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### **QUESTION 23**

God has given us a \_\_\_\_\_; what are we going to do with it?

## Lesson 38 Answers to Questions

**QUESTION 1:** True [This is NOT what the Bible teaches, however.]

**QUESTION 2:** False [Our message, and their acceptance or rejection, would have no bearing on God's choice.]

**QUESTION 3:** True [He knew this because He sees the end from the beginning, and knows who will trust Him and who won't.]

**QUESTION 4:** True [When the Bible says "all men", we cannot add the meaning of "all the elect."]

**QUESTION 5**

B. What will happen if you trust Him

D. What will happen if you don't trust Him

**QUESTION 6:** True [He would be a cruel God if He hadn't.]

**QUESTION 7:** True

**QUESTION 8:** True

**QUESTION 10**

C. Through our belief

**QUESTION 11:** True

**QUESTION 12:** *Your answer should be similar to the following:*

To be holy and without blame before Him in love.

**QUESTION 13**

A. Sealed with the Holy Spirit

C. Predetermined to be in Heaven

D. Predetermined to be conformed to the image of Christ.

**QUESTION 14:** True [It just isn't there.]

**QUESTION 15**

A. To limit in advance

C. To determine beforehand

**QUESTION 16**

B. Know beforehand

D. To forsee

**QUESTION 18:** True

**QUESTION 19:** first

**QUESTION 20:** False [He does not want any to perish, but He gives every man a choice.]

**QUESTION 21:** False [The "good tidings of great joy" was to "all people."]

**QUESTION 22:** True

**QUESTION 23:** choice