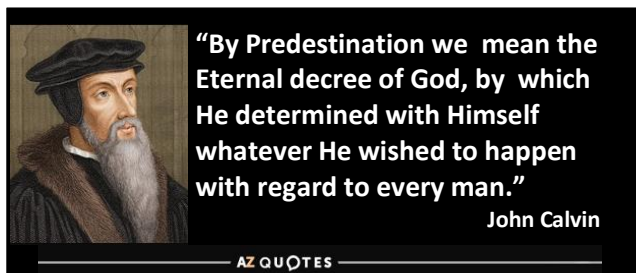


Predestination versus Freedom of Choice?



Predestination: **‘The doctrine that God has ordained all that will happen, especially with regard to the salvation of some and not others.’***

It has been particularly associated with the teachings of St Augustine of Hippo and of Calvin.’ (Dictionary)



We Put Aside Doctrines and See the Scriptures

Doctrine: * ‘salvation of some and not others’

Bible: *‘The Lord is..not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.’* (2Peter 3:9)

What is it All For?

When God created us as humans he breathed his spirit into us and man became a living soul. (Gen. 2:7) Although we are created in God’s image, **‘his selfie’**, we are recreating ourselves by our decisions.

He wants to see what we will do with his spirit of love that he breathed into us. Will we learn to obey it and learn to make loving decisions in line with his design, or will we go the way of all flesh with the attitude of ‘do what you like for tomorrow we die’?

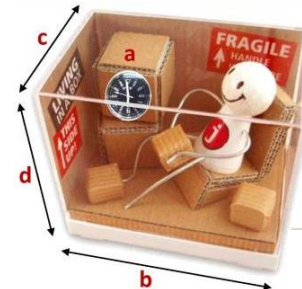
What Did Paul Mean with Predestination?

‘And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son’ (Romans 8:28,29)

God is Not Bound by Time Like Us ‘For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate..’

Outside the parameters of our four dimensions of **a:** time, **b:** length, **c:** width and **d:** height, time does not really exist and goes both ways, backwards and forwards.

God, who is from a much higher dimension, can see the future and which upcoming decisions that we are going to make.



Our Predestination is in Our Hands

If the decisions that we will make are in line with his spirit of love that he breathed into us, then God will help us and protect us up to a certain point, so we can eventually arrive at the point where we can make those important decisions.

In the light of these decisions that we will personally make we impact our future in a certain direction and in doing this we predestine ourselves.

God absolutely does not predestine us, because that would take away our free will of decision making, with which we set the course to our destination in advance. Like we PRE-BOOK a hotel, so we decide our DESTINATION in advance - PRE-DESTINATION.

It says, **‘he did foreknow,’** or he already knows beforehand, what decisions we will make, as he sees the future, but **THE DECISIONS ARE 100 % OURS.**

God Works Behind the Scenes

We see many examples where God knew that we were going to make the right decision. With this in mind he orchestrated or allowed particular, often difficult situations to occur, where our character could be tested, and we could make these important and often life-changing decisions. God does not predestine us, but because he can see the future and knows what decisions we will make, he sets things into motion, so that we can make these key decisions.

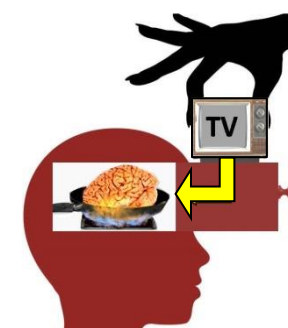
After we’ve made the right decision then we realize that **‘all things work together for good’.**

God Will Not Override Us

We are the only ones shaping our own destiny and predestining our future.

When it comes to decision making we are equal to God. God has bound himself that he will not make the decisions for us, which shows how important we are and that the responsibility of making the right decisions rests upon each of our shoulders.

Not God, nor the Devil, can predestine us by making our decisions for us. They will seek to influence our decisions, like our parents, or like good and bad friends do, but **THEY CANNOT MAKE THE DECISIONS FOR US.** God speaks to us in different ways, at times



it’s dreams or visions, but mainly through his word.

The Devil and his cronies tempt, bully or pressure us, but they cannot override our decisions if we stand firm. Satan is seeking to numb and fry our brain and influence our decisions

through the media, finances, social pressure, horror films, fake news, junk food, etc., etc.. You name it.

However if we make the right decisions based on loving values that we know are right and which help others and we do not waver, then God will come to our aid and stand by us and we see his hand in our life.



This Question Troubles Me:

Isn’t God all powerful and can he not do what he wants, then why does he allow all this injustice to go on in the world?

Yes, he can, but although God is all powerful, he has set certain boundaries for himself that he cannot and will not cross. He will not override our decisions.

'being predestinated according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will:' (Ephesians 1:11)

God will not ***'after the counsel of his own will'*** make the decisions for us, that is our personal, individual, majestic prerogative, of which we also reap the results, whether good or bad.

Character Building or Shifting the Blame?

You and I build our personal character by the decisions that we make. The responsibility of the decision rests with you and me... I cannot blame the TV for wasting my time, when I hold the remote control with the on/off switch in my hand.

I cannot blame my decisions on Satan or whatever excuse I want to use to shift the blame away from myself on to something or someone else.

I cannot say, 'It was because of Adam and Eve sinning that I am making the wrong choices', or 'the Devil made me do it' The Devil can do nothing, niente, nada, nichts, rien, ничто, niks, if we don't allow him.

Are We Worthy?

In each of our lives, the Lord wishes to bring out the best in us and to test our character by our decisions. It is to see if we are worthy to be his Bride.

If we decide for him then he will care for us like a doting husband. *'For your Maker is your husband'* (Isaiah 54:5)

A Cherokee Folktale

There is a war going on inside of us which is strikingly described in the following Cherokee folktale. The grandson of the Cherokee chief had been causing trouble in the camp and was called into the chief's tepee. "Son, each one has two wayas, two wolves, inside of him, which fight to dominate our life. Each person has this fight going on inside of him."

The boy asked, "Enisi, what are these wolves like?" "There is the good wolf and the bad wolf.

The bad one feeds on pride, is angry, arrogant and greedy. He lies to protect his ego and position.

He thinks he is superior, but is also overcome with inferiority, so he gets depressed with self-pity, and even thoughts of suicide."



"What about the other waya?"

"That son, is the good one," grandpa continued, "This one is sent by Tsalagi, the Great White Spirit. This waya feeds on humility, is helpful, has empathy, generosity, loves truth and is for peace. He stands firm and keeps his word."

The grandson was quiet and thoughtfully asked, "Enisi, how do I know which wolf will win?"

"It is the one you feed, my son, the one you feed."

"It is not because we are strong in character that we make the right decisions, but it is because we make the right decisions that we become strong in character." Aristotle

Heading Down the Wrong Track

Whatever decisions we make sets our life on a certain track, so we need to be extremely careful what pre-destination we choose. Once we travel in a certain direction the speed increases. If we don't like the direction where we are headed, it is awfully difficult to pull the emergency chain and make a U-turn.

High Security Walls

All of us have made wrong decisions and headed towards the wrong destination. During our life we hurt, we build walls. We don't apologize or forgive to make things right. We fortify our walls till they've become our 'high security prison'. None in - none out. These "protective" walls are our sin and *"the take-home pay of sin is death;"* (Romans 6:23A)

It's death to our love and our happiness. Things in life become complicated and confusing.

So What is the Solution?

This is where Jesus comes in, as the next part of that verse says, *"but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus"*. He cut through all the complexities by saying, *"A new commandment I give to you that you love one another as I have loved you.."* (John 13:34)

Simple as that. This puts all of us on equal footing as sinners, as we all have failed in loving others.

His Question for Our Choice

When they crucified Jesus and were pounding the nails through his hands and feet, he said, *"Father, forgive them for they don't know what they do."* (Luke 23:34) If he can forgive them, then he can forgive us. He said, *"I came not to call the good people to repentance, but I came for sinners."* (Matthew 9:13) Honest sinners like you and me, who know they need a miracle to change. Jesus died the death of a foul criminal and took the worst punishment that any of us could be given... Hence **his question for our final decision concerning our ultimate predestination is:** "I gave you my life; will you give me your heart?"

Which wolf am I feeding to win?



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