**Predestination**

**Titus 1**Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God’s elect (Chosen) and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised them before the beginning of time,…

Predestination is a biblical doctrine that says God in His sovereignty chooses certain individuals to be saved. (Predestination is usually associated with the teachings of St. Augustine and Calvin)

The Bible tells us that God does not wish that any should perish

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

But there are many verses (many by Paul) that suggest that God has already chosen those who will inherit eternal life. Some goes as far to suggest that God has chosen the elect that will go to heaven and chosen others to go to eternal damnation. This view is sometimes referred to as "double predestination.

**Matthew 22:14** For many are called, but few are chosen.”

* Has God already chosen whom he wants to save?

Paul writes in Romans

# Romans 9:14-23 What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, “*I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.* “ It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. For Scripture says to Pharaoh: “*I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”*

# Therefore, God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. One of you will say to me: “*Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?”* But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it,‘*Wy did you make me like this?’”* Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use? What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory

Notice that God's selection of certain individuals for salvation is based solely on His "Mercy” & “Compassion” without any foresight of faith or good works." In other words, there is no freedom of choice where salvation is concerned; the matter was settled long ago, before the foundation of the world was laid, and cannot be changed. If you are one of the fortunate ones-if you are among those whose names were put into the Book of Life before the world was made-then you have no choice but to be saved! God has decreed it! And His decree has nothing to do with His foreknowledge of faith or good works or outstanding character on your part.

Did Pharaoh even have a chance? Or was he predestined before the beginning of time to go to eternal damnation. The bible does tell us that God made the Wicked

**Proverbs 16:4** The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

Revelation seems to suggest that unless your name is in the book of life, written before the world was created, you have no hope.

 **Revelation 17:8** The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

**So what does the bible say about Predestination?**

**Ephesians 1:4-5**

Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will

**Ephesians 1:11-12**

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, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

**Romans 8:28-30**

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

**John 6:44**

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

**Somethings to consider:**

If God has already elected those who are going to heaven, then why does he call us to lead others to Christ when No amount of influence from Christians will change who is elected or not. So, is there no use in praying for our friends or family? If God has already made his decision.

if God only allows the elect to be saved, and God predestined the elect, then by default, isn’t God predestining everyone else who is not elect to be eternally condemned.

Didn’t Jesus died for everyone, not just the elect And didn’t he say who ever believes…

**John 1:29** Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

**John 3:16** “God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

**John 6:40** For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

**John 6:47** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life

**John 11:25** Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”

**Matthew 10:32** “whosoever confess me before men, him will I confess before my father in heaven”

Can we change the destiny of those who are going to Hell?

**Jude 22-23** Show mercy to those who doubt. Save others by pulling them out of the fire. To others, show mercy mixed with fear of sin. Hate even the clothes that are stained by the sins of those who wear them.

**James 5:19-20** “My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

**Final thoughs**

* Wouldn’t it be better if God, in his mercy, Never let those be born who he knew would end up in hell?
* Predestination suggest a time line of events (a before and an after) but If God lives outside time wouldn’t that explain why everything is predestined just because he already knows the outcome. We are free to make our decision but God already knows what those decisions are. So, is it truly predestination or Just knowing who will choose him and who will not?
* IS your name in the book of Life? Or the dead?

**Revelation 20:12** And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the **dead** were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had **done**.