

PREDESTINATION?

Romans 8:18-30

- ²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹**For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, ...**
- ³⁰**Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called;** whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

**DO I REALLY
HAVE A
CHOICE?**

*Concerns with limited Atonement (WRONG IDEA of) Predestination:

- ❑ Implies injustice and partiality.
- ❑ It leads sinners to despair, feeling that their striving is in vain and useless.
- ❑ As for the righteous, it leads them to slackness and negligence.
- ❑ Why is there a need for commandments?
- ❑ Why would the devil toil in tempting the elect if they will certainly be saved?
- ❑ On what basis would reward be given to the elect if they had no choice in their destiny?
- ❑ Why would God punish a person predestined to perdition?

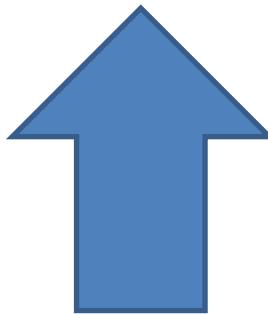
Understanding the Biblical and
Orthodox Concept of Predestination.

We have to examine what GOD desires?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT?

Romans 8:29

And we know that **all things work together for good**
to those who love God



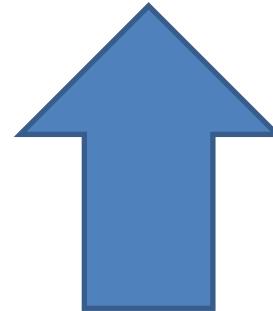
This does **NOT** SAY:



TO THOSE WHOM GOD ALREADY LOVES

1 Corinthians 2:9

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
nor have come into the heart of
man the things which God has
prepared **for those who love Him**



This does **NOT** SAY:



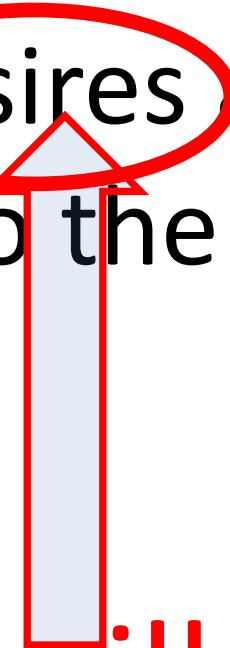
TO THOSE WHOM GOD ALREADY LOVES

Our salvation depends on **our**
response to the grace of God

Do you love Him?

1 Timothy 2:3

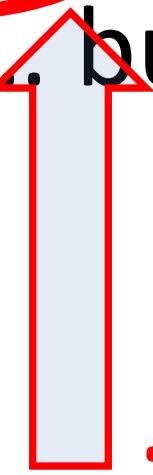
... God our Savior, who **desires** all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth?



**What is God's will
for all people?**

Mathew 23:37

“How often I **wanted** to gather your children together... but you we're not willing!”



What is God's **will** for all
all people?

What is YOUR will?

- If anyone **desires** to come after Me, let him deny himself." (Mt 16:27)
- If **you want** to enter into life, keep the commandments." (Mt 19:17)
- "If **you want** to be perfect, go sell what you have and give to the poor." (Mt 19:21)

What is YOUR will?

“Behold, I stand on the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.” (Rev 3:20)

“How often I wanted to gather your children together... but you were not willing!” (Mt 23:37)

“You are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.” (Jn 5:40)

What is YOUR will?

- “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (Jn 3:16)

What is YOUR will?

“I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore **choose** life.” (Deuteronomy 30:19)

What is God's pleasure?

“I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.”

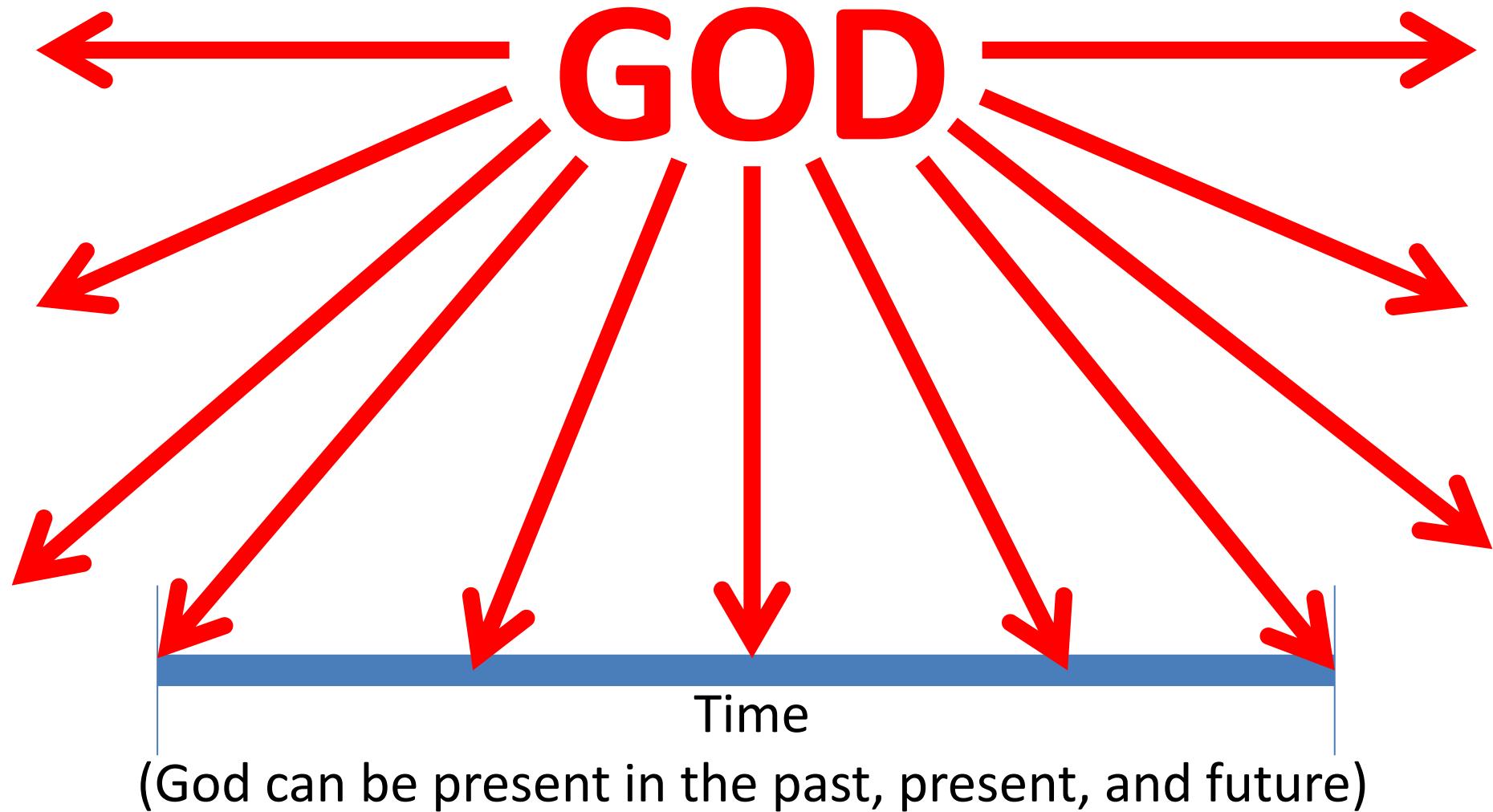
(Ezekiel 33:11)

How then are we pre-destined?

- **For whom He foreknew, He also predestined...** (Romans 8:29)
- To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **elect according to the foreknowledge of God**
- (1 Peter 1:1-2)

FOREKNOWLEDGE

- For whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined...** (Romans 8:29)
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-St. Augustine

FOREKNOWLEDGE

Vs.

WILL

“I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore **choose** life.”

(Deuteronomy 30:19)

...**elect** according to the foreknowledge of God (1 Peter 1:1-2)

whom He foreknew, He also **predestined...**
(Romans 8:29)

The future does not flow from foreknowledge, but foreknowledge comes from what you do in the future

God foreknew that Judas was going to betray Jesus of his own free will. But God's foreknowledge did not force Judas to betray Jesus.

WILL VS. FORKNOWLEDGE

- God's predestination for salvation **is not due to His will** (**God wants all to be saved- His will is that all should be saved**)
- **God's predestination for salvation is due to His divine foreknowledge, "Whom He foreknew, He also predestined".**
- The same is clear from the words of St. Peter, **"elect according to the foreknowledge of God"** (1Pet 1:2)
- **[NOT FOREKNOWLEDGE ACCORDING TO HIS WILL].**
- The key point is to differentiate between **God's will** and **His foreknowledge**.

Forkwoledge

of what



Forkwoledge

of

YOUR CHOICE.

You are always
FREE TO CHOOSE!

YOU ARE ALWAYS FREE TO CHOOSE

“I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore **choose** life.” (Deuteronomy 30:19)

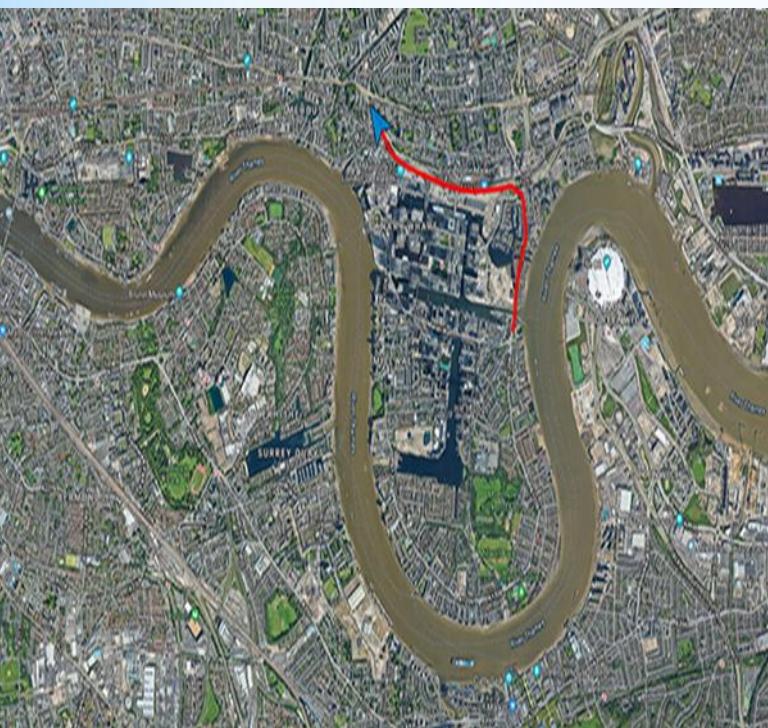
- * God knows beforehand if you will repent or not and he knows if you will go to heaven or not.
- * Even though He already knows your destiny, He does not compel your choice and you are always free to choose and to struggle.
- * Even though He knows what your choice will be, you are 1000% free to choose. He desires that we all repent and turn to Christ and be saved.

***Satellite View (God's Perspective):** From God's perspective (the "satellite view"), everything is known simultaneously because God exists outside of time. He has a complete and perfect overview of all events and all human choices, from all eternity. This divine foreknowledge does not cause or compel human actions; it simply observes what will freely happen.



***Street View (Human Perspective):** Humans experience life sequentially, from the "street view." We are not aware of the future and must make free choices at every turn, navigating our path in real time. Our will is genuinely free, a gift from God, and our choices have real consequences for our salvation.





*God knows the outcome because He foresees our free choices, not because He has predetermined them.



*The "street view" is where real, free decisions are made, and the "satellite view" is God's timeless awareness of all those decisions.



And because we repent, He has ordained/prepared a glorious future for us based on our free will response to His offer of Salvation.

He knows our choice.

Based on our choice, he has predestined us for glory.

You are FREE to choose to do God's will.

You are FREE to choose to serve faithfully

You are FREE to work hard in service

Cursed *is* he who does the work of the LORD deceitfully (haphazardly)

-Jeremiah 48:10

You are FREE to build up treasures in heaven through your service.

He knows our choice. Based on our choice, he has predestined you for glory.

“[Our Lord] Jesus said, ‘Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.’ He calls everyone to himself, and no one is lacking in the grace of this calling, for when he says ‘everyone’ he excludes nobody.”

But those whom he long ago foresaw would come into being he predestined to participate in the future blessings and called them to receive justification by faith in Him and not to sin again.”

***St. Cyril of
Alexandria (444 A.D)**

- * Predestination “does not take away our free will.” Romans 8:29 “uses the word ‘foreknew’ before ‘predestined’.
- * Now it is clear that “foreknowledge” does not by itself **impose** any particular kind of behavior...”

- Diodorus of Tarsus

**if the word of God foretells that some angels and men shall be certainly punished, it did so because it foreknew that they would be unchangeably [wicked], but not because God had created them so. So that if they repent, all who wish for it can obtain mercy from God. (Dialogue with Typho, ch. 141)*

*St. Justin Martyr (2nd C.)

For those who live in unrepenting sin or laziness or lack of service, a saint of the Eastern Orthodox Church once said,

“Yes, indeed, [God] truly knew you beforehand as inattentive and disobedient and lazy, but this is certainly not because He ordered or foreordained it that you should have no power to repent to get up and obey ...

“Those who are going to repent’, you say, ‘were predestined, but I am not one of them. So, let them repent therefore whom God clearly foreknew, and whom He also predestined.”

“O shamelessness of soul and worse than the demons themselves! When did anyone ever hear of one of them saying such a thing? Where was it ever heard that a demon blamed God for its own damnation?

- Symeon the New Theologian (E.O.)

Predestination based on God's foreknowledge can not be used to blame God for bad deeds or damnation

ALSO, it should not be used to assume that you don't need to do anything, don't serve, don't repent, don't do good deeds since I'm already "predestined" This is **DEAD FAITH** (James 2:17)

