

Predestined Position – Foreknowledge

Romans 8:28-30 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29. For those God **foreknew** he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Sovereignty of God in Salvation

1. Sovereignty - God is God Almighty Over All (Romans 8:28)
2. **Foreknowledge** - God knows the outcome already
3. Depravity of Man - total absence of good in man
4. Predestination - pre-designed by the Creator-Engineer
5. Election - God chooses whom he will
6. Calling - God calls generally and specifically on and to specific people
7. Free Will - man's choice,

1. God is Complicated

(ie) the Mind of Minolta (ie) Microwave (ie) Digital Camera (ie) TV and Radio
(ie) Computers (ie) CD players (ie) replicators in Star Trek

2. God is Hard To Understand

2 Peter 3:15-16 NIV

15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. 16. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Romans 11:33 O the depths of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out.

3. God is Searchable but Beyond Understanding

?? Isaiah 55:8-11 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

?? Ephesians 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

?? Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

?? Job 38:2 "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?"

Ground Rules for This Series – Sovereignty of God

1. You don't have to agree.
2. You don't have to argue or get mad.
3. You don't have to understand it to be saved.
4. Never ever debate this with unbelievers.

The Controversy

Calvinism and Arminianism

Arminius, Jacobus (c.1559-1609) and John Calvin (1509-1564)

(ie) The Controversy began with preaching from Romans chapter 7. Arminius believed Paul was speaking as a pre-Christian. Calvin said, no he was speaking as a believer and about the old carnal nature. Whatever the outcome of that theory, chapter eight is about the Believer's Position in Christ. It needs to be taught, caught and brought into the Christians basic belief system for it brings comfort and faith to pray as we ought to pray in dependence on the Holy Spirit and the Sovereignty of God.

Someone inevitably will accuse me of being a Calvinist or Arminian. "Sometimes you talk like an Arminian and sometimes like a Calvinist. Which are you?"

*I am not a Calvinist, nor an Arminian. I am a Christian, a **Biblicist**. I am a biblicist because I preach the Word of God, not the word of Calvin or Jacob Arminius. When God's word is stern, I preach sternness. When God's word is comforting, I preach comfort. This is a comfort passage!*

(ie) John Wesley's advice

John Calvin was a pious, learned, sensible man; and so was James Harmens. Many Calvinists are pious, learned, sensible men; and so are many Arminians. Only the former hold absolute predestination; the latter, conditional.

One word more: Is it not the duty of every Arminian Preacher,

First, never, in public or in private, to use the word Calvinist as a term of reproach; seeing it is neither better nor worse than calling names? -- a practice no more consistent with good sense or good manners, than it is with Christianity. **Secondly**. To do all that in him lies to prevent his hearers from doing it, by showing them the sin and folly of it?

And is it not equally the duty of every Calvinist Preacher,

First, never in public or in private, in preaching or in conversation, to use the word Arminian as a term of reproach? **Secondly**. To do all that in him lies to prevent his hearers from doing it, by showing them the sin and folly thereof; and that the more earnestly and diligently, if they have been accustomed so to do? perhaps encouraged therein by his own example!

From the Thomas Jackson edition of The Works of John Wesley, 1872.

(ie) Arminius' view of Calvin's Commentaries.

While the notions pertaining to the name "Arminius" are commonly thought to suggest exclusive rejection of all things Calvin, **his appreciation of Calvin's Commentaries is noteworthy.** They occupy, he said, second place only to Scripture: *"I recommend that the Commentaries of Calvin be read.... For I affirm that in the interpretation of the Scriptures Calvin is incomparable, and that his Commentaries are more to be valued than anything that is handed to us in the writings of the Fathers -- so much so that I concede to him a certain spirit of prophecy in which he stands distinguished above others, above most, indeed, above all."*

*Contrary to many modern day so-called Arminians, belief in Sovereignty of God, election, foreknowledge, and predestination and effectual calling does not make one a **fatalist**. It makes one a **biblicist** - a believer in God the Father Almighty - and enables him to pray effectively **IN THE WILL OF GOD** and for the **WILL OF GOD**.*

These are not doctrines for the unsaved. These are not things every believer is yet mature enough to understand or embrace.

Foreknowledge (foreordained)

God is Always the First Cause - the causer, initiator, creator, controller.

(ie) Predictability of the throw of the dice, for instance in monopoly -

(ie) Divining Rod - predicting where there is water in the ground

(ie) Forecasters, discern the signs of the sky and forecast rain.

1. Prior Knowledge – God knows all things, beginning & ending

God knows because he has foreknowledge, he has foreknowledge because he is sovereign to choose. He chooses because he is sovereign. He ordains because he has chosen. He has chose because he has elected to do so.

4268 prognosis

from 4267; n f , AV-foreknowledge 2; 2 1) foreknowledge 2) forethought, pre-arrangement

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Romans 11:2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

1 Peter 1:20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

2. Before the Foundation of the World

John 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

1 Peter 1:20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

3. From Before the Womb

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Galatians 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace,

Psalms 139:13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

A.W. Pink - Foreknowledge

When the solemn and blessed subject of Divine foreordination is expounded, when God's eternal choice of certain ones to be conformed to the image of His Son is set forth, the Enemy sends along some man to argue that election is based upon the foreknowledge of God, and this "foreknowledge" is interpreted to mean that God foresaw certain ones would be more pliable than others, that they would respond more readily to the strivings of the Spirit, and that because God knew they would believe, He, accordingly, predestinated them unto salvation.

But such a statement is radically wrong. It repudiates the truth of total depravity, for it argues that there is something good in some men. It takes away the independence of God, for it makes His decrees rest upon what He discovers in the creature. It completely turns things upside down, for in saying God foresaw certain sinners would believe in Christ, and that because of this, He predestinated them unto salvation, is the very reverse of the truth. Scripture affirms that God, in His high sovereignty, singled out certain ones to be recipients of His distinguishing favors (Acts 13:48), and therefore He determined to bestow upon them the gift of faith.

False theology makes God's foreknowledge of our believing the cause of His election to salvation; whereas, God's election is the cause, and our believing in Christ is the effect.

The "foreknowledge of God the Father" does not here refer to His prescience of all things, but signifies that the saints were all eternally present in Christ before the mind of God.

God did not "foreknow" that certain ones who heard the Gospel would believe it apart from the fact that He had "ordained" these certain ones to eternal life. -
Sovereignty of God in Salvation

Sovereignty of God - Pink

When addressing the unsaved, preachers often draw an analogy between God's sending of the Gospel to the sinner, and a sick man in bed, with some healing medicine on a table by his side: all he needs to do is reach forth his hand and take it. But in order for this illustration to be in any wise true to the picture which Scripture gives us of the fallen and depraved sinner, the sick man in bed must be described as one who is blind (Eph. 4:18) so that he cannot see the medicine, his hand paralyzed (Rom. 5:6) so that he is unable to reach forth for it, and his heart not only devoid of all confidence in the medicine but filled with hatred against the physician himself (John 15:18).

How the Microwav Oven Works

The microwave works when the high voltage is converted to waves of electromagnetic energy, which is a combination of electrical and magnetic energy. This energy is in the frequency band of radio waves, not x-rays. A wave guide and stirrer blade work together to make sure the energy reaches all areas of the oven interior. When the door is opened or the timer reaches zero, the energy automatically stops, so no microwave radiation leaves the oven. All ovens also have two independent systems that ensure the electrical activity stops as soon as the door is opened.

The microwaves make the water molecules contained in food vibrate and 'wiggle', which produces heat. This is what cooks the food, and also why the oven itself doesn't heat up. That's why foods that have a lot of water, like fruits and vegetables, cook more quickly. Foods high in fat and sugar also cook more quickly. Metal reflects the microwaves, and the energy passes through glass, plastic and paper. As soon as the microwave energy is absorbed by the food, it is converted to heat - so the microwave energy can't 'contaminate' the food.