

Predestination & Human Responsibility

Key Scriptures

Romans 8:28-30 And 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, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Eph. 1:11 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,

Prov. 16:9 A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

Prov. 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Matt. 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.

John 3:18 He who does not believe is condemned already because they have not believed.

Key Point:

Salvation is of God from beginning to end.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- If you could suggest any flavor of ice cream for Chucksters to create and sell, what would it be?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- What does Romans 8:29 say believers are predestined for? Are there any objections to God predestining you in this way?
- What are the implications of each of the passages listed (other than Romans 8:28-30)? How do they apply in our life situations today? (For instance, how should Prov 21:1 impact our thinking as Americans?)
- What is the circular logic that God gives Israel in Deuteronomy 7:6-9? How does this kind of love transform our identity? Why is this the best basis for love? What happens when we are only loved for specific factors or attributes about us?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- What is the circular logic that God gives Israel in Deuteronomy 7:6-9? How does this kind of love transform our identity? Why is this the best basis for love? What happens when we are only loved for specific factors or attributes about us?
- Why did God choose you to be a Christian?
- How does God's choosing of you make you feel and impact your thinking?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- If you believe the future is fixed you will be passive in how you live. If you believe that everything is dependent on you making the right choices in everything, you will be paralyzed. How should you live this week in light of this?

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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