

FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD DOES NOT REQUIRE PREDESTINATION

God foreknows what will happen and what could happen, but He does not force all things that happen to happen¹. God does predestine some things but not all things. God does predestine the outcome of a life that cooperates with Spirit conviction and is led to saving faith in Jesus Christ for sin removal. Those “in Christ” are predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ². But God does not predestine who will come to saving faith and eternal life. God does foreknow who will cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction and attain eternal life. These who God foreknows become the predestined. And they are predestined to glorification. Those who have already been regenerated, foreknown, and predestined are “the called.” Those who are regenerated and called to holiness and service are justified. “The called” are changed to new creations in Christ³. They are called to holiness and service. So some things in life are predestined and some are not. God does not predestine evil acts⁴. Evil acts are a consequence of our God-given freedom to act. God has a choice about our evil acts. God can either redeem individuals from their sin (which is God’s choice), ultimately redeem humanity from sin and evil through judgment, or God can kill off all of humanity. Freedom to act is an attribute of God which He shares with humanity. Being made in the image of God is status, not quality. Man has chosen to act in sin and wickedness. God has chosen to redeem individuals from sin and wickedness in conjunction with cooperation of the will of man and the Spirit of God⁵. Jesus is the express image of God⁶. Jesus is God. Jesus is the perfect man⁷. As man, Jesus is the Last Adam given all power and authority to redeem individuals and restore creation to a sinless condition⁸.

¹ 1 Samuel 23:9-15

² Romans 8:29

³ 2 Corinthians 5:19; Romans 8:29,30; 6:4-14; 7:4-6; 8:4,5,9,10,14-17;26,28

⁴ James 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 14:33; 1 John 1:5; Genesis 1:31

⁵ Matthew 23:37; Ephesians 1:13; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9

⁶ Hebrews 1:3-14; Colossians 1:14-23; John 1:1-18

⁷ Romans 5:15-19

⁸ Matthew 28:18; Revelation 19:11-21; 20:11-15; 21:1-27; 22:1-21