

Predestined?



Ephesians 1:3-14

PREDESTINED - what Calvinists say it means

"By predestination we mean **the eternal decree of God, by which he determined with himself whatever he wished to happen with regard to every man.** All are not created on equal terms, but **some are preordained to eternal life, others to eternal damnation;** and, accordingly, as each has been created for one or other of these ends, we say that he has been **predestined to life or to death.** We say, then, that Scripture clearly proves this much, that God by his eternal and immutable counsel determined once for all those whom it was his pleasure one day to admit to salvation, and those whom, on the other hand, it was his pleasure to doom to destruction. We maintain that this counsel, as regards **the elect,** is founded on his free mercy, **without any respect to human worth,** while **those whom he dooms to destruction are excluded from access to life** by a just and blameless, but at the same time incomprehensible judgment" (Institutes, III.21.5,7, Beveridge translation).

All are born unalterably decreed to salvation or damnation

PREDESTINED - what scholars say it means

- HELPS Word-studies
 - 4309 προρίζω (from 4253 /πρό, "before" and 3724 /ἵστημι, "establish boundaries, limits") – properly, pre-horizon, pre-determine limits (boundaries) predestine.
 - [4309 (προρίζω) occurs six times in the NT (eight in the writings of Paul). Since the root (3724 /ἵστημι) already means "establish boundaries," the added prefix (πρό, "before") makes 4309 (προρίζω) "to pre-establish boundaries," i.e. before creation.]
- Strong's Exhaustive Concordance
 - determine before, ordain, predestinate. From pro and horizo; to limit in advance, i.e. (figuratively) predetermine -- determine before, ordain, predestinate.

To determine boundaries or limits in advance

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:7-12

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places **in Christ**, 4 just as **He chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 **He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us **in the Beloved**.

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PREDESTINED - what Paul says it means

- God predestined to choose those “in Christ”
- God predetermined the character of those He would choose
 - Holy and without blemish before Him
 - Eph. 5:27 - Limited in advance to the church
- God foreordained that He would adopt His children through Christ, **not** who his individual children would be
- Gal. 4:4-5
 - *But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

PREDESTINED - what **Peter** says it means

1 Pet. 1:1 *Peter,... to those ... who are chosen 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.* 3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you...*

1 Pet. 1:20 *For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you 21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places **in Christ**, 4 just as **He chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 **He predestined us** to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us **in the Beloved**.

PREDESTINED - what Paul says it means

- Before He made the world, God predestined **how** He would save man **NOT** which men He would save
- He decided in advance to save those adopted through His Son
- He predetermined the boundaries of those that would be saved:
 - He purposed to save those “in Christ”
 - Those who “listened to” and “believed” the gospel
 - Just like the Ephesians
 - “To the praise of His glory”

PREDESTINED - what Paul says it means

- Are you among those that God has predestined to be saved?
- Have you chosen to be “in Christ”?
 - *For all of you who were baptized **into Christ** have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Gal. 3:27)*

