



Answers to Tough Questions: Are we predestined or do we have free will?

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Ephesians 1:3-6; I Corinthians 1:25-31

Introduction





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What predestination does NOT mean:



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1. We are robots



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2. No need to evangelize



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What predestination does NOT mean:

1. We are robots

2. No need to evangelize

3. God only predestines those who He know will believe.

I. God chooses the elect before we
were born



I. God chooses the elect before we were born



1. What is “Doctrine of Election/predestination” and is it biblical?

I. God chooses the elect before we were born



1. What is “Doctrine of Election/predestination” and is it biblical?

Ephesians 1:4-5

*5 just as He **chose** us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵He **predestined** us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,*

I. God chooses the elect before we were born



1. What is “Doctrine of Election/predestination” and is it biblical?

John 15:16

⁶ You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

I. God chooses the elect before we were born



1. What is “Doctrine of Election/predestination” and is it biblical?

II Thessalonians 2:14

¹⁴ It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I. God chooses the elect before we were born



1. What is “Doctrine of Election/predestination” and is it biblical?

Romans 8:29-30

²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

1. God chooses the elect before we
were born



2. What about man's free will?

I. God chooses the elect before we were born



2. What about man's free will?

John 1:12-13

² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, ¹³ who were [a]born, not of [b]blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.



I. God chooses the elect before we were born

2. What about man's free will?

Romans 9:18-21

¹⁸ So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires. ¹⁹ You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?" ²⁰ On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? ²¹ Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?

I. God chooses the elect before we
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3. What Why doesn't God choose everyone?

I. God chooses the elect before we were born



3. What Why doesn't God choose everyone?

- Unconditional election



I. God chooses the elect before we were born

3. What Why doesn't God choose everyone?

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- Romans 9:11-13 :

¹¹ for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not ^[b]because of works but because of Him who calls, ¹² it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER." ¹³ Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."

I. God chooses the elect before we were born



3. What Why doesn't God choose everyone?
 - Unconditional election
 - Romans 9:11-13
 - The right question is: why does God choose anyone?

II. God chooses the least to be his elect





II. God chooses the least to be his elect

I Corinthians 1:25-27

*²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men,
and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

*²⁶ For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not
many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not
many noble; ²⁷ but God has chosen the foolish things of the
world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak
things of the world to shame the things which are strong,*

Conclusion





Conclusion

- Ephesians 1:6 says, “To the praise of his glorious grace... You see a similar phrase again in verse 12: To the praise of his glory; And again in verse 14: To the praise of his glory. God has freely blessed us so that the universe might marvel at his glorious grace.



Implications:

1. God is sovereign over our salvation.
2. Humans are called to repent and believe.
We will be held accountable for not believing.
3. Stand in awe of Almighty God because His ways are higher than our ways. Praise Him for choosing us.



Isaiah 55:8-9

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” declares 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.*