

“A Good God or A Bad God?”
Ephesians 1:4–6

In.

Ephesians 1:4–14—“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

In.

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 upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 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, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

In.

V. 4 “He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world”

v. 5 “predestined”

προορίσας (proorisas) from root (προορίζω)-“to mark beforehand”

Election seems to refer to people, while predestination refers to purposes.

In.

What Does The Bible Say About Predestination?

Apostles

Acts 4:28-“. . . do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place”

Acts 13:17-“The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it”.

Acts 13:48-“And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed”

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Romans 8:29–30—“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified”

Romans 8:33—“Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies”

Romans 9:11–18—“. . . though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call—he was told, ‘The older will serve the younger.’ As it is written, ‘Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.’ What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! For he says to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.’ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, ‘For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.’ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills”

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Romans 11:5 -“So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace”

Romans 11:7 -“What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened”

Colossians 3:12 “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience”

1 Thessalonians 1:4–5-“For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction”

2 Thessalonians 2:13 -“But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth”

2 Timothy 2:10 “Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory”

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Titus 1:1-“Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness”

1 Peter 2:9-“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”

1 Peter 1:1-“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion”

2 Peter 1:10-“Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall”

In.

Jesus

1. For many are called, but few are chosen” (Matthew 22:14).
2. “I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me”” (John 13:18).
3. “For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect” (Matthew 24:24).
4. “And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matthew 24:31).
5. “And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?” (Luke 18:7).
6. “For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will” (John 5:21).

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7. “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day” (John 6:37–39).

8. “I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen” (John 13:18).

9. “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you” (John 15:16).

10. “If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (John 15:19).

In.

When Does God Choose?

“. . . share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began”
(2 Timothy 1:8–9).

“. . . and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slain” **(Revelation 13:8).**

“The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come” **(Revelation 17:8).**

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Why Does God Chose?

Romans 11:34 says, “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

Eph. 1:11–14—“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, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

“I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me” (**Romans 10:20**).
Proof of God’s Love. He didn’t leave you alone!

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“But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God” (**1 Corinthians 1:27–29**).

1 Peter 2:9—“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”

“In love he predestined us” (**Ephesians 1:4–5**).

God is not unloving

There is hope for the unborn, mentally challenged, and those never heard

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General Principles To Remember About God's Prerogative To Chose:

1. God is under no obligation to save anyone.

*{John 5-Healed one but not all}

2. All opportunities are not equal since not everyone hears the gospel.

3. It sounds more benevolent to have a God who allows everyone to come in but is that really love. For a judge not judge anyone is actually not good but bad.

4. Free Will/Human Freedom?

Really the issue is not the freedom of man but the freedom of God!

(to those that have said: God's sovereignty cannot restrict or interfere with human freedom)

We Must Define "Free Will"

In.

Really the issue is not the freedom of man but the freedom of God!

We are free but there are limits to our freedom

Our will is not neutral.

Man is not free in all his abilities. (i.e. man cannot save a soul, man cannot control all the actions of others, etc.)

Does man have the ability to discontinue being blind, dead, and bent toward sin. Can he change his nature?

Better to say mans freedom cannot restrict God's sovereignty.

In.

His Holiness constrains everything else including making sure some get punished and others don't

We actually don't want God to be allowing us to exercise free will without his direct intervention to the same degree (we want the police or our laws to not allow people do certain things.) We want the police to arrest child molesters. We don't want them to be "free".

No one is treated unjustly by God.

Man's Will is in bondage and cannot make righteous moral God-pleasing decisions but rather without Christ is under the wrath of God.

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The Key To Understanding Is Seen in The Depth of Human Depravity

The Bible Teaches Man is so sinful he is utterly UNABLE in any way to save Himself. So, this truth shows that God was not violating our will and making us His robots but rather being so compassionate as to not leave it to ourselves.

Genesis 6:5- “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

John 8:34- “Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.”

Rom 3:10–18- “Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.”

“Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

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Rom 8:7-“For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot.”

1 Cor. 2:14-“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

Ephesians 2:1–3- “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

In.

Ephesians 4:17–18—“Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.”

2 Cor. 4:3–4—“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

Jeremiah 17:9—“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”

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