

Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 1
“God Has Predestined Certain Individuals To Heaven Or Hell Without
Involving Their Choice In The Matter!”
Lesson 17

INTRO:

- A. This statement or belief, for the most part, is a centuries old doctrine and is part of an entire system of religious belief.
1. Some of the parts of this system go all the way back to the 5th century and the Roman Catholic philosopher Augustine
 2. But as far as the system we are familiar with today, it owes its existence primarily to John Calvin who lived from 1509 to 1564.
 3. Calvin was a Catholic but converted to Protestantism during the Reformation Period.
 4. He formulated this doctrine around 1536 which was during the Protestant Reformation which shows the depth of his influence on Protestant thinking.
- B. The best way to remember the entire system of Calvinism is by the word **“TULIP”**.
1. **“T”otal Hereditary Depravity** (All humans inherit the sin of Adam at birth.)
 2. **“U”nconditional Election** (God arbitrarily has chosen certain individuals to Heaven and Hell.)
 3. **“L”imited Atonement** (Christ only died for the ‘Elect’ that God has chosen to go to Heaven.)
 4. **“I”rresistible Grace** (The Holy Spirit has to do a miraculous work to convince those who have been selected to go to Heaven.)
 5. **“P”erseverance Of The Saints** (Once saved you cannot be lost.)
- (This study is concerning itself with the “U” - Unconditional Election/Predestination)
- C. All of Calvin’s beliefs logically go together.
1. Therefore, it is illogical to accept one and not all of his beliefs.
 2. It’s like a row of dominoes; when one belief falls, they all fall with it!
- D. **QUOTE:**
- “God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass:...By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto life,...and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished....Those...predestined to life, God (before the foundation of the world was laid...) hath chosen...out of His mere grace and love, without any other thing in the creature as a condition or cause moving Him thereunto.” (**The Hiscox Guide For Baptist Churches**, Text Of The Philadelphia Confession, Part III, p. 161, 162)
- (A note concerning denominational creeds:)**

Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 2
“God Has Predestined Certain Individuals To Heaven Or Hell Without
Involving Their Choice In The Matter!”
Lesson 17

1. **The Westminster Confession Of Faith** belongs to the Presbyterian groups.
 2. **The Philadelphia Confession Of Faith** and **The New Hampshire Confession Of Faith** both belong to several of the Baptist groups.
- D. The expressing of this teaching can even be heard in everyday common usage.
1. “What ever will be, will be!”
 - a. ‘Que Sera, Sera’ - Doris Day
 - b. Comes from the concept

I. WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH CONCERNING PREDESTINATION?

A. **Ephesians 1:3-14**

Romans 8:29-30

1. Indeed, the word “predestined” is a Bible word and therefore a Bible subject but ‘unconditional election’ is not a Bible term.

- B. Just because God knows certain things beforehand does not mean God has predestinated them.

Genesis 22:12

Jeremiah 19:5

1. From these verses we can see there are obviously some things God chooses not to know before they happen!

- C. There are also things God has commanded but has not set so definitely that He could not change His mind.

Jeremiah 18:7-10

Ezekiel 3:17-21

2 Kings 20:1,5

- D. If God has predestined all things that come to pass, why did He instruct a man not to kill like He did in **Exodus 20:13** “*You shall not murder.*”?

1. If this doctrine be true, whatever we do wrong we aren’t to be blamed because God has foreordained this “*from the foundation of the world*”.

- E. If God has decreed some to be lost, why did He say, “*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*”? (**Matthew 11:28**)

1. If God were guilty of such, it would be the same as if we were to take a small child, tie them to a tree, and then ask them to come and get the box of candy we were holding toward them just out of their reach!

II. What Does The Bible’s Use Of The Word ‘Predestined’ Mean?

- A. Considering again the verses we’ve read (Ephesians 1; Romans 8; 9) and keeping in mind Calvin’s definition of the word

1. Calvinism states that ‘some men and angels are predestinated unto life’.

“God Has Predestined Certain Individuals To Heaven Or Hell Without Involving Their Choice In The Matter!”

Lesson 17

- a. Thus, God has predestined certain individuals lost or saved!
2. What is being addressed in the passages of Ephesians and Romans is not that God has predestined select individuals to be saved but rather the **PLACE** where salvation can be found.
3. Notice the context of Ephesians 1:3-14:
*“Eph. 1:3 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**,*
*Eph. 1:4 just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*
*Eph. 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He made us accepted in the Beloved**.*
*Eph. 1:7 **In Him we have redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*
*Eph. 1:10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He **might gather together in one all things in Christ**, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—**in Him**.*
*Eph. 1:11 **In Him** also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,*
*Eph. 1:13 **In Him** you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; **in whom** also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,*
4. Salvation is **“IN CHRIST JESUS”**. **2 Tim. 2:10** *“Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the **salvation which is in Christ Jesus** with eternal glory.”*
5. God has “predestined”/pre-determined before the foundation of the world to save those who are **“IN CHRIST”**!
 - a. God has “predestined”/pre-determined before the foundation of the world eternal damnation to those who are outside of Christ!
6. Whether you or I get **“IN CHRIST”** by being **“baptized into Christ”** (Galatians 3:27), is entirely up to us!
- B. If ‘unconditional election’ is true, God is a “respector of person”. Yet the Scriptures teach:
Acts 10:34 *“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that **God is no respecter of persons:**”*
Romans 2:11 *“**For there is no respect of persons with God.**”*
Ephesians 6:9 *“And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; **neither is there respect of persons with Him.**”*

4

Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors
“God Has Predestined Certain Individuals To Heaven Or Hell Without
Involving Their Choice In The Matter!”
Lesson 17

1 Peter 1:17 “*And if ye call on the Father, **who without respect of persons** judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.*”

- a. Therefore, because of these verses, we have proof that ‘unconditional election’ is a false doctrine and those who teach such are false teachers!

CONCLUSION:

- A. All are invited to come to the Lord.
Matthew 11:28 “*Come to Me, **ALL** you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*”
Revelation 22:17 “*And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. **WHOEVER** desires, let him take the water of life freely.*”
- B. Why are **ALL** invited if **ALL** cannot come?
- C. Those individuals who are lost will not be lost because God chose them to be lost but because **THEY CHOSE** not to obey God. (2 Thessalonians 1:8)

Question:

- 1. Does the Bible teach we are “predestined” or ‘unconditionally elected’? Explain your answer.

ANSWER:
