

# PREDESTINATION & SALVATION

*The doctrine of predestination is difficult for many to understand. Much of this difficulty arises when predestination is applied to unbelievers, something the scriptures never do. We must not take something written to unbelievers or all men and try to apply it to believers or try to apply texts of scriptures written to believers and apply it to all men or unbelievers.*

## OUR SINFUL NATURE

All are sinners (Rom. 3:23).  
 Conceived in sin (Ps. 51:5).  
 Sinful from birth (Ps. 58:3).  
 Sinful from youth (Gen. 8:21).  
 Sin is imputed to us in Adam (Rom. 5:17-19; 1 Cor. 15:22).  
 We are sinful by nature (Eph. 2:3).

## OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD

No one seeks God (Rom. 3:10-12).  
 Men love darkness not light (John 1:4-5; 3:19-20).

## THE LIMITED FREEDOM OF OUR WILL

Men cannot understand God's Word (1 Cor. 2:14).  
 Men are blinded from the truth (2 Cor. 4:3-4).  
 Men are unable to please God (Rom. 8:5-8).

## SIN AND MAN'S ABILITY TO REASON

Our heart is corrupt (Jer. 17:9).  
 Our minds are subjected to futility (Eph. 4:17).  
 Our hearts are darkened (Rom. 1:21).  
 Our conscience is defiled (Titus 1:15).  
 Our hearts are evil (Mark 7:21-23).  
 Our thoughts and intentions are evil (Gen. 6:5).

## GOD'S MESSAGE TO ALL MEN

God commands all men to repent (Acts 17:30).  
 Confess and believe (Rom. 10:8-10).  
 Believe that Jesus died, was buried and rose again on the third day (1 Cor. 15:3-5).  
 Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31).

## GOD'S DESIRE FOR ALL MEN

God desires all men to be saved (1 Tim. 2:1-4).  
 God is not willing that any should perish (2 Pet. 3:9).

## ALL MEN ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE

God's invisible attributes, eternal power, and divine nature can be clearly seen in creation. God also made Himself known to us by putting His law in our hearts and giving us a conscience sensitive to right and wrong. Yet, man universally suppressed the truth in unrighteousness and served God's creation instead of God hence man is without excuse before God (Rom. 1:18-23; 2:14-16).



6. **How can God not be willing for any to perish but not choose all men?** This is a paradox which the scriptures don't address. The scriptures do say that God chooses whomever He wants, has compassion on whomever He wants, and mercy on whomever He wants and that we do not have the right to question His sovereign decisions (Rom. 9:6-33).

## GOD CHOOSES SOME

God predestines some (Eph. 1:4-5, 11; 1 Pet. 1:2).  
 The predestined believe (Acts 13:48; Rom. 8:29-30; Tit. 1:1).  
 God chooses some (Matt. 22:14; 2 Thess. 2:13).

## GOD SAVES EVERYONE HE CHOOSES

The Father gives some to Christ and all which are given come (John 6:37, 39).  
 No one comes to Christ unless the Father draws them (John 6:44, 65).  
 The Lord opens the hearts of those who believe (Acts 16:14).  
 The Lord grants people the ability to believe (Matt. 11:27; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Phil. 1:29).

Saved by God's grace (Eph. 2:8-9).

Saved by God's mercy (Tit. 3:5).

## GOD LOSES NONE

Jesus loses none which are given (John 6:39; 10:27-30).  
 God's call is irrevocable (Rom. 11:29).  
 God confirms us to the end (1 Cor. 1:8-9).  
 God seals us with the Spirit until the day of redemption (Eph. 4:30).  
 God continues His work in us until the day of Christ Jesus (Phil. 1:6).  
 God brings our salvation to pass (1 Thess. 5:23).



## WHY GOD CONDEMNS MEN TO HELL

They reject God's manifestations of Himself (Rom. 1:18-32).  
 They regard as foolishness the Word of the cross (1 Cor. 1:18).  
 They are disobedient to the Word (1 Pet. 2:7-8).  
 They do not believe the truth but love wickedness (2 Thess. 2:10-12).  
 They do not obey God (John 3:36).  
 They do not repent (Luke 13:3,5).

Rom. 2:5). They deny Christ (Matt. 10:33). They are selfish and obey unrighteousness (Rom. 2:8).

## QUESTIONS

1. **If God is the one who saves and only His elect believe then why witness?** God commands us to make disciples and confess Christ before men. If we don't we are sinning (Matt. 10:32-33; Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:8-15).
2. **Why pray for people if God has already decided who He will save?** God tells us to pray at all times, to pray about all things, and to pray for all men. If we don't we are sinning (Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-4).
3. **How can you call God just if He chooses some and not others?** We must remember that all men are sinners (Rom. 3:23). It is just for all men to suffer hell because of their sin (Rom. 6:23). The question is not why are some saved but why don't all perish? God saves us by His mercy and grace and these supersede justice (Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 3:5; Matt. 20:1-16; Rom. 9:14-20).
4. **Don't all people have the possibility of being saved?** Yes. God's Word is the power of salvation for all who believe and His Word has been shared with many (1 Cor. 1:18, 23-24). Yet, even if people don't hear the gospel, God has revealed Himself through nature, in our consciences, and put His law in our hearts but all men suppress that truth and therefore are without excuse (Rom. 1:18-23; 2:14-16).
5. **If only the predestined are saved then it seems logical that God must predestine the others to hell.** The scriptures never say that God predestines people to hell. People choose hell when they don't choose God (see THOSE WHO DISBELIEVE section). They willfully sin, trample underfoot the Son of God, regard as unclean the blood of the covenant, and insult the Spirit of grace. (Heb. 10:26-31) They choose to not seek God (Rom. 3:11).

