

- Weighing & debating God's sovereignty vs. mans "free-will"
  - Doctrine of salvation
    - Implicates Christology & Bibliology & Anthropology as well
      - Busenitz – 3 pillars – Scripture, Salvation, Savior
        - To misunderstand any one, automatically will distort the other two pillars as well
  - Causes us to need to consider the doctrine of man also
    - As with any Christian doctrine, the biblical truth, and not the feelings and/or emotions generated by that truth, needs to be mans compass
    - We believe in the doctrine of predestination because it's biblical
      - Just as is the doctrine of mans free agency & responsibility
        - Often the concept of "free-will" surfaces in debates pertaining to predestination
          - A proper understanding of mans free agency & responsibility is vital to our soteriology (study of salvation)
            - "free-will" is not the most helpful of terms because of the various ways people define the concept
              - That will be most thoroughly discussed in part III of this study.
- John 15:16
  - *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.*
    - ἐξελέξασθε (2<sup>nd</sup> pl) & ἐξελεξάμην (1<sup>st</sup> sg) AMI

- to make a choice in accordance with significant preference, to select someone for oneself
    - middle voice – interpretive options
      - indirect – describes the **subject performing the action** on the direct object
        - while **emphasizing the participation** of the subject
      - direct – describes the **subject performing** the action and also the **object receiving** the action – the option not employed in John 15:16
        - indirect b/c of the **contrasting “but”** – emphasizes it was Jesus’ act of choosing of them that result in being set apart for the purpose of bearing fruit
        - at the same time, emphasizing that the disciples were not (negated) the one’s who chose Jesus Christ, ie. the subject(s) of the action of choosing
    - we understand this choosing to be in a salvific sense and according to the predetermined will of God, the disciples were selected for salvation, to be set apart, to bear fruit for the kingdom
- John 13:18
- *“I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.’ Ps 41:9*

- Jesus distinguishes b/t those chosen and Judas, one not chosen
- Judas nonetheless still is predestined by God, OT prophesy describe his actions

➤ John 17:12

- *While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.*
  - Helps to describe the result of the choosing
  - δέδωκάς – entrust someone to another's care
  - υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας – the son destined to destruction
    - the destruction that one experiences, annihilation both complete and in process, ruin – to the complete physical & spiritual ruin of the person
      - eschatological damnation
  - we would say that Judas' character aligns with his ongoing and final destiny
    - Scripture makes this connection for us
    - Matt 7:13
      - *"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.*
    - 1 Tim 6:9
      - *But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.*
    - 2 Peter 3:16

2022-02-13

- *as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.*
  - Destruction – Acts 8:20; Phil 3:19; Rom 9:22
  
- the son of perdition - for what purpose?
  - that Scripture would be fulfilled = divine purpose, a predetermined plan
    - which Scripture?
      - Ps 41:9
      - Ps 109:8 – of an accuser
        - Let his days be few;  
Let another take his office.
      - Isa 57:1–4
        - <sup>1</sup> *The righteous man perishes, and no man takes it to heart;  
And devout men are taken away,  
while no one understands.  
For the righteous man is taken away  
from evil,*  
<sup>2</sup> *He enters into peace;  
They rest in their beds,  
Each one who walked in his upright  
way.*  
<sup>3</sup> *“But come here, you sons of a  
sorceress,  
Offspring of an adulterer and a  
prostitute.*  
<sup>4</sup> *“Against whom do you jest?*

*Against whom do you open wide your  
mouth  
And stick out your tongue?  
Are you not children of rebellion,  
Offspring of deceit,*

- Let's not miss the language of John 17 either
  - **v. 2** *You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.*
  - **v. 6** *"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.*
  - **v. 9** *I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours;*
  - **v. 12** *While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.*
  - **v. 24** *Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*
  
- John 6:37
  - *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.*
    - This giving of souls to Christ is directly related to God's predestining some to salvation through Christ
  
- John 6:44
  - *No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.*

- ἐλκύση – used metaphorically – to draw, lead, impel
    - **with implication that the object being moved is incapable of propelling itself or, in the case of person, is unwilling to do so voluntarily, in either case with implication of exertion on the part of the mover** BDAG
      - a work attributed to God the Father
  - How does this occur?
    - *v. 45 It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.*
      - God compels belief
        - Immediately after regeneration together with faith and repentance
- Romans 8:28–30
- <sup>28</sup> *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.*
  - <sup>29</sup> *Because 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 brothers;*
  - <sup>30</sup> *and those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified.*
    - Each action – foreknew, predestined (to become conformed), called, justified, glorified – display God is the subject performing the action
    - Foreknew the person, not some detail about the person's life
- προορίζω – *decide upon/appoint beforehand, to predetermine, to foreordain* [pertaining to the work of God]
- from

- πρό
  - in front of, before
- ὀρίζω – *horidzo*
  - to define
  - to mark out the boundaries or limits (of any place or thing)
  - to determine, appoint
    - that which has been determined, acc. to appointment, decree
    - to ordain, determine, appoint
- πρό + ὀρίζω = to limit in advance, the limits of those saved and the limits of those condemned are marked out, neither is added to or subtracted from in God's perfect and complete knowledge, and not only in His knowledge but according to His determination
  
- other usage of "predestination" language
  - Acts 4:27–28 – Peter & John's prayer
    - <sup>27</sup> *For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,*
    - <sup>28</sup> *to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.*
  
  - 1 Cor 2:7
    - *but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden [wisdom] which God predestined before the ages to our glory;*
      - decided upon beforehand – before all time/ages
        - a plan to save mankind before time – should provoke awe & wonder
          - we cannot fathom

2022-02-13

- the substance of what Paul speaks is the previously hidden wisdom now revealed through the person and work of Jesus Christ
  - for which the prophets searched for 1 Peter 1:10–12
  - the salvation of sinners or their own glory Romans 9:23
- Eph 1:4–5, 9, 11
  - <sup>4</sup> *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love,*
  - <sup>5</sup> *He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,*
  - <sup>9</sup> *He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him*
  - <sup>11</sup> *also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,*
    - To adoption into the family of God
    - In kindness
    - His sovereign will making this certain to occur
    - 
    - Resulting in inheritance – eternal life
    - Intentional, purposed
- Romans 9:10–14
  - *10 And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac;*
  - *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 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."*
- *14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there?*

*May it never be!*

- In v. 12 quoting from Genesis
- In v. 13 quoting from Malachi 1
  - Malachi's purpose – to call the Jews who returned from exile to repentance over their complacency towards God's faithful love and His Law, evidenced by their mixed marriages, their withholding of tithes, and social injustice. Yet Malachi also reminds them that God's covenant promises remain true.
  - Esau (individual) = Edom (national)
    - was complacent in not valuing his birthright – something given him freely from God – despised it
    - Led to his descendants following after idolatry
    - Jacob's lineage, would ultimately lead to the remnant and the Messiah

➤ 1 Corinthians 1:26–28

- *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,*
- *28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,*

➤ 2 Thess 2:13

- *But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.*

➤ Chosen

- To be the recipients of mercy
- Love
- Kindness
- Attention
- To manifest the mystery of His will
  - Not according to fairness by human standards
  - But for the purpose of displaying His own glory

➤ **predestination**

- generally, God's eternal, uninfluenced determination of all things; specifically, God's eternal choice of those who will be saved and those who will be passed over and condemned for their sin.

*Biblical Doctrine*

- another term for "election" in Reformed theology generally, this is a broader term that includes not only election (for believers), but also reprobation (for nonbelievers). *Systematic Theology* – Grudem
- God's actions in willing something to a specific result; indicating God's eternal decree by which all creatures are foreordained to eternal life or death; also used synonymously with "election" indicating God's gracious initiation of salvation for those who believe in Jesus Christ. *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* (DK McKim, 1996)

- **Single** – God predestines/elects some to salvation by means of positive decree while those who are not saved condemn themselves because of their sin meaning the unsaved are “passed over” in that they remain in their sin.
- **Double** – God predestines/elects some to salvation and condemns others to damnation, both by eternal decrees meaning election and reprobation are positive and coordinate decrees. GraceLife’s position

## Bibliography

Wayne A. Grudem. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (1995).

John MacArthur & Richard Mayhue. *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth* (2017).

Kevin D. Zuber. *The Essential Scriptures: A Handbook of the Biblical Texts for Key Doctrines* (2021).

