

# Five Steps to Understanding Election and Predestination

## Some Quick Beginning Questions:

What Election and Predestination are Not:

1. Does Predestination mean I have no choice? Absolutely Not! Choose now whom you will serve – Joshua 24:14(part) “choose this day whom you will serve”.

2. Does God want everyone to be saved? Absolutely YES! He’s not willing to have anyone perish – “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

3. Does “Unconditional [Calvanistic] Election” mean I can do whatever I want and still be saved if I’m one of the Elect? Absolutely NOT! The soul that sins will die – “The soul who sins will die.”

In the cases of Election and Predestination, we want to affirm scripture without taking sides (Calvinism vs Arminianism).

## Step 1 – Define ‘Election’ and ‘Predestination’

What is the difference, scripturally, between “Election” and “Predestination”?

- a. Election is choosing (who)  
I’m going to pick some folks to go on a trip to McDonalds.
- b. Predestination refers to a pre-determined future state (what)  
The destination for the ones I chose is the trip McDonalds.

*Predestination is  
a Part of Election!*

## Step 2 – Depth of Meaning Using Election

The idea of Elect or Election is used several ways and about several target people and/or nations in scripture:

Christ is the ‘Elect’

Israel is ‘Elect’ or Chosen and Even Chosen Again – Isaiah 14:1

Believers in Christ are ‘Elect’

“If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them.” – Mark 13:20

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

“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 1:4

“for many are called, but few are chosen.” – Matthew 22:14

“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.” – Acts 13:48 (There seems to be an individual aspect here.)

Based on these verses, scripture indicates that God “chooses” individuals; however, we must understand that God knows the end from the beginning.

Example of Israel:

1. Calls them “my people” and calls them out of Egypt
2. God gives Israel the laws of Moses and asks, “Do you accept these laws?”
3. ‘Some’ of the Citizens of Israel choose to sincerely follow God.

### Step 3 – Is Election ‘Totally Unconditional’

Election is “In Him [Christ]”

1. You are a new creation:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” –

2 Corinthians 5:17

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” – Galatians 2:20

2. Elect according to the foreknowledge of the Father:

“To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:” – 1 Peter 1:1-2

“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.” – Romans 8:29

Conclusion: Election is not related to your works, but it is related to God’s foreknowledge and it’s related to being “in Christ”.

Note on Ephesians 2:8:

“For by grace [khar'-ece: feminine noun] you have been saved through faith [pis'-tis: feminine noun]. And this [too'-to: Neuter singular nominative or accusative case pronoun] is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, is not your own doing; it is the gift of God”

*The Greek structure of Ephesians 2:8 indicates that “being saved by grace through faith,” as a whole, is a gift from God.*

### Step 4 – Where are You Going?

Predestination is about the future of the saved person:

1. You will be forgiven of you sins.
2. You will become children of God.
3. You will be co-heirs with Christ.
4. You will be seated with Christ in the ‘heavenlies’.
5. You will have become a new creation upon salvation.
6. You will become like Christ in body, mind, and soul.

These and many more are the pre-determined destiny of those who ‘choose’ Christ.

### Step 5 – No Matter What Man Chooses, God’s Purpose is Fulfilled

“the kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’<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 plan had predestined to take place.<sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,” – Acts 4:27-29

Here, people are making ‘free-will’ choices, but God is in control of the moment, time, outcome.

“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.<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.” – Romans 8:29-30

*Note the past tense*