

## The Doctrine of Predestination

There are many **misunderstandings** about the doctrine of predestination. The most common is the idea that it means God made all the decisions of your life, prior to your birth. Therefore everything is predestined and no one has any choices. This also includes but whether you will be saved or lost. None of these ideas are supported by Scripture! The word “predestinate” is found only in six verses in the New Testament. These verses reveal six things that God has predestined, Greek *proorizo* which means to predetermine, foreordain – to plan in advance, and they are His guarantees to every believer.

- 1. Jesus’ birth, life, and death was a predestined plan of God, Acts 4:27-28.**  
Jesus’ death on the cross for our sin was not an afterthought in the mind of God.
- 2. The transformation of a believer is a predestined plan of God, Rom 8:29.**  
Note that in verse 29 the verb *proorizo*, “predestined” has an object. Believers are predestined “to be conformed to the image of His Son. It is a promise, not an afterthought, that when we are saved, God will remake us in the image of Jesus.
- 3. The resulting effect on those who respond is predestined by God, Rom 8:30.**  
All four verbs in this verse “predestined,” “called,” “justified” and “glorified,” are aorist verbs in Greek. This means they refer to a point in the past, when a believer’s transformation began and guarantees God will continue to work until salvation is finished, and we are glorified. We were saved, we are being saved, and we will be saved by our faith in Christ.
- 4. Every believer’s access to the wisdom of God is predestined, 1 Cor 2:7.** Access to wisdom from God is a predestined guarantee from God that is accessible through the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer, 1 Cor 2:10-14.
- 5. Every believer’s adoption into the family of God is predestined, Eph 1:5.** When a person responds to God for salvation, God guarantees that each one will become a part of the family of God. God establishes this as a permanent relationship,
- 6. Restoration of every believer’s inheritance lost due to sin, is predestined by God, Eph 1:11.** All the blessing of God that belonged to the human family before the fall; abundant life, Gen 2:7-9; productive work, 2:15; rest 2:3; peace, 2:8-20; companionship, 2:18, 21-25; knowledge by revelation and discernment, 2:9, 17; dominion, 1:26-28; 2:19-20; security, 2:8 – all this and more will be restored, see Rev 21:1-22:21.

Lamar E. Cooper, Sr.