



Believe - week 2

Ephesians 1:4-10

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.



Doctrine 101: Predestination vs. Free-will

Predestination	Free-will
God chooses who goes to heaven and who goes to hell	Human beings decide their eternal destiny by choosing to live for God or not
<u>Biblical support - Romans 8:29-30</u> "29 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. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.	<u>Biblical support - Romans 10:9-10</u> 9 Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Conclusion:

Both predestination and free-will are Biblical. Even though they seem to contradict one another, in God's sovereignty and great wisdom, He makes both work hand in hand. This is a non-essential doctrine that Christians hold different views on. Some believe only predestination is right (Calvinist). Some believe only free-will is correct (Arminian). We are called to not be in camps of Christianity, but simply to be a Christian saved by grace and faith alone. God alone knows everything perfectly about His ways. May our pursuits of knowing more about Him lead to loving Him more.

A suggested framework to help you understand how the two can reconcile:

- (1) God does not desire the death of anyone (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9)
- (2) Because of our sin, we all deserve eternal hell (Romans 3:23).
- (3) Because of God's great love & grace, He predestines some to eternal life in heaven. These people decide to put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ who gave His life on the cross suffering punishment for their sins. Out of a thankful heart and with God's Spirit, they live for God alone (Romans 8:29-30).
- (4) Because of God's holiness, He reluctantly predestines some to eternal hell. These people reject the free gift of grace found in Jesus' death on the cross. Out of a prideful heart and following Satan's lies and deception, they deny God and live for themselves and their pleasures (Romans 1:18-23)
- (5) If you struggle with reconciling God's love for His children and His wrath against the ungodly, remember that your pride can get in the way from trusting God is good in all His ways (Romans 9:19-24)

