

Predestination- A biblical view

Objective:

Let us consider this topic by discussing it from the perspective of our salvation. Predestination is a complex theological, philosophical and logic concept. Numerous writings are dedicated to its meaning. One of the reasons John Calvin split from the Church was over this concept (see below). What does the Bible say? God knows all that has been and will be. Does it follow that God plays us like a puppeteer and we have no choice (or the choices we make are already determined). Or did God create us to know, love, and serve him allowing us to seek salvation through following his word and end in a state of grace thereby being saved.

Let's start with the question do you believe we have no control in our salvation or damnation, yes, no, or I am not sure and why or why not? On a piece of paper write your answer as briefly as possible.

Song Suggestion: We Walk by Faith

Bible and Catechism Readings:

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.

Luke 15:7

(Jesus said) I tell you that in the same way, there will be *more* joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, *and* thanksgiving be made in behalf of all people, ²for kings and all who are in ^[a]authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and ^[b]dignity. ³This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Catechism 1037

God predestines no one to go to hell; for this, a willful turning away from God (a mortal sin) is necessary, and persistence in it until the end. In the Eucharistic liturgy and in the daily prayers of her faithful, the Church implores the mercy of God, who does not want "any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

Catechism 2003

Grace is first and foremost the gift of the Spirit who justifies and sanctifies us. But grace also includes the gifts that the Spirit grants us to associate us with his work, to enable us to collaborate in the salvation of others and in the growth of the Body of Christ, the Church

Saint: St. Thomas Aquinas

philosopher, theologian, doctor of the Church, patron saint of students.

THE SUMMA THEOLOGICA

First Part Question 23

God foresees the free activity of a man precisely as that individual is willing to shape it. Whatever may promote the work of our salvation, whether our own prayers and good works, or the prayers of others in our behalf, is eo ipso (thereby) included in the infallible foreknowledge of God and consequently in the scope of predestination.

Vignette: There was a man named Augustine, who lived a life of excess with little concern for his salvation. After years of intercessory prayers of his mother St. Monica he changed his life and became a Doctor of the

Church and a Saint. Did God decide Augustine's life before he was born or God knew how Augustine was to turn out before he was born?

Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:

If God has already decided who will go to heaven and hell then why did Jesus become man, bring us the good news, die for our sins, rise from the dead and return to heaven and promise to come again at the final judgment?

Have you ever struggled to respond to someone who says why does God allow bad things to happen?

Are you confused about the two sides of predestination? Do you care?

Action Plan:

1. Make a plan to read the Gospels of Luke and John, look for Jesus affirming our freedom to follow Jesus as affirmation of our free will to affect our salvation.
2. Pray to the Blessed Mother to ask her Son Our Lord Jesus to send me the graces he feels I need to deal with situations I face now and in the future.

References:

Biblical source -New American Bible published by St Benedict Press

Search predestination at <https://www.catholic.com/search?q=predestination>

or just internet search predestination

John Calvin 10 July 1509 – 27 May 1564

Calvin's religious teachings emphasized **the sovereignty of the scriptures and divine predestination**—a doctrine holding that God chooses those who will enter Heaven based His omnipotence and grace.

In America, there are several Christian denominations that identify with Calvinist beliefs: Primitive Baptist or Reformed Baptist, Presbyterian Churches, Reformed Churches, the United Church of Christ, the **Protestant Reformed** Churches in America

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