

**SERIES TITLE: BIBLE ANSWERS**

**PART THREE: ABOUT PREDESTINATION**

**TEXT: EPHESIANS 1:3-5**

### **INTRODUCTION TO STUDY**

This series addresses some frequently asked questions. The four subjects are: The Tribulation, Paranormal Activity, Predestination, and Hell. We will look at what the Bible has to say about each of these topics, and how the truth applies to our lives today.

### **CONTEXT OF SCRIPTURE**

Paul's letter to the churches in and around Ephesus was written during his imprisonment in Rome. The focus of the letter is salvation by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9) available only through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As such, Paul begins by recounting God's plan for salvation from the creation of the world and His intention that all believers be blessed, holy people.

### **FOCUS QUESTION**

Predestination means "to determine in advance." Why is it often a controversial topic even though it is a word the Bible uses several times? (Rom. 8:29, 30; Eph. 1:5, 11)

### **EXAMINATION**

Answer these questions from Ephesians 1:3-6

- When did God chose us?
- How did God chose us?
- For what purpose did God predestine us?
- On what basis did God predestine us?
- What does v.11 add to any of the above questions?

Based upon the following Scriptures, answer the question "How do I know God chose me?"

- John 3:16-17
- John 6:44
- 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5
- 1 John 5:3-5

Identify whether each Scripture teaches salvation is God's choice or our choice:

- "Come to me all who are labored and heavy laden, and I will give you rest," Matt 11:28
- "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him," John 6:44

- “Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life,” John 5:24.
- “From the beginning God chose you to be saved,” 2 Thess. 2:13
- “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him,” John 3:36.
- “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth,” James 1:18
- “To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,” John 1:12.
- “For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,” 1 Thess. 1:4.

#### **EXPLORATION**

- Isaiah 43:1-7
- John 1:9-13
- Romans 8
- Galatians 4:4-7
- 1 Peter 1:13-23

#### **APPLICATION.**

- Discuss these three responses to the doctrine of predestination:
  1. Embrace the Mystery. Why should we be satisfied that some truths cannot be fully explained or completely understood?
  2. Choose Christ. If God chooses before the creation of the world, how can humans be responsible for choosing or rejecting Christ? (John 5:40; 2 Thess. 2:10)
  3. Bless God. How does predestination give us reason to praise God? (Eph. 2:8-9)

#### **SUMMATION**

- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?

- Act: What are you going to do?

**ADDITIONAL DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCE**

[Can I Lose My Salvation? Click Here](#)