

“Foreknown and Predestined”
A Study of the Book of Romans
Pastor Tim Allen

Key Truth: For those whom [God] 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 ESV).

Because we’re in Christ (if we believe in him alone for salvation), all the blessings associated with him are ours by promise and inheritance. When we look at the complementary words: “foreknew” and “predestined,” we start with the realization that Jesus Christ was these – he was foreknown by his Father from eternity past and was predestined to be our Savior according to God’s own Plan. Because Jesus was foreknown and predestined, all those who are in Christ are too. For what has God foreknown us, and for what has he predestined us? To clear up much of the confusion surrounding these two words, it is helpful that we study them in context and in light of the rest of Scripture.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 8:28-30** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled **“Foreknown and Predestined.”**

DIG IN

1. Foreknew (Romans 8:29a)

Why do you think it is significant that God would know us beforehand (Jeremiah 1:4-5)?

In what ways does Jesus’ person and work play into this foreknowledge (see Acts 2:23)?

In what ways does God’s foreknowledge relate to his choosing us (election, see Ephesians 1:4)? How far back in human and creation history does this foreknowledge stretch?

Do you agree with this statement: to be fore-known is to be fore-loved? Why or why not?

Read Acts 13:48: In what ways does this verse speak of God’s foreknowledge and election?

2. Predestined (Romans 8:29b)

The word “predestined” (*pro-horizō*) means “to set the boundaries (horizon) beforehand, to predetermine one’s destiny.” According to verse 29 and Ephesians 1:5, what are the purposes for our being predestined? How do these relate to our salvation?

What is the result of being predestined (v. 29c)? Who benefits from this and why?

In what ways should your understanding of being foreknown and predestined by God help you to be more thankful and evangelistic?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?