

Romans 8:29–30 NKJV 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be conformed to the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

With verse 29 of Romans 8, we enter the waters of Romans that most people find the most difficult to navigate. We come to words like “foreknew” and “_____.” The end of chapter 8 and all of chapter 9 force us to wrestle with questions such as

What is the doctrine of election?	Does man truly have free will?
What is the role of God in the salvation of a person?	What is the role of man?
Did Christ die only for the elect (those who will ultimately be glorified)?	Did Christ die for the sins of all?
Did God predetermine who would go to heaven and who would go to hell on the basis of His sovereign will alone?	Does a person’s response to the gospel determine his salvation, or does his salvation determine his response to the gospel?

In the history of Christianity, two opposing sets of answers to these questions have developed. One set of answers come from a group often called Calvinists, because in general they follow the teachings of a 16th century reformer named _____ Calvin. The other set of answers come from those who would agree more with the responses of _____ Arminius and are thus often called Arminians.

Of course, there are many people who fall in between these two groups, but most tend to lean toward one side or the other. Where are Southern Baptists concerning these questions? At the moment, in fierce _____! By fierce I do not mean unkind in tone and word. I mean that there are strong convictions held both ways, and the subject matter is rigorously examined and discussed by many.

Although at present, the majority of SBC members probably lean more toward the _____ side of things, the influence of _____ is spreading rapidly. The leadership of our SBC Seminaries are increasingly Calvinistic. Sadly, some churches have split, and others have gone through serious turmoil about these matters.

I reveal these things not to illuminate controversy but to say that these are very _____ questions, and the answers are of great importance. The growing, maturing Christian should certainly think through these things, and come to a conclusion concerning what they believe the _____ _____ teaches, not only in Romans 8 and 9, but in the whole of the Scriptures. As with every passage studied, we will seek to examine these passages in the light of all of the rest of Scripture, remembering that ultimately each verse came from a single source, the _____.

Consequently, when we rightly understand, our understanding will fit ____ of the Scriptures, and not just the ones we want to pick and choose.

Before we begin our verse by verse examination, let me offer a summary of the two sides of this discussion, reminding you that the truth of God’s Word may not fall to either side, but somewhere in between at each point of contention.

Topic	Calvinism	Arminianism
Human will	T otal _____ means that man is so sinful that he cannot seek God, cannot respond to God’s revelation, and cannot repent and have faith on his own.	Depravity does not preclude the _____ of man from responding to the calling of God in repentance and faith.
Election	U nconditional _____ to salvation and damnation	Conditional election in view of foreseen _____ or unbelief
Justification	L imited _____ means that justification is limited to those elected to salvation, completed at Christ’s death.	Justification is possible for all, but only completed when one _____ faith.
Conversion	I rresistible _____ means that those who are chosen for salvation cannot _____ it.	Involves free will and is resistible
Preservation and apostasy	P erseverance of the saints, once saved, _____ saved	Preservation upon the condition of persevering faith with the possibility of a total and final _____.

Perhaps you noticed that the five central doctrines of Calvinism form an acronym: _____. These five teachings are also called affectionately by Calvinists, “The Doctrines of _____.” Another, and more popular name for Calvinists today is “_____” in reference to the reformation. Thus these doctrines are called _____ Theology.

The system of Calvinism focuses on God’s _____ and that God is able and willing to do whatever He desires with His creation. It also maintains that the Bible teaches: That God, by His sovereign grace _____ people into salvation; that Jesus died _____ for those predestined; that God _____ the individual making him able and desirous to choose God; and that it is impossible for those who are redeemed to _____ their salvation.

Arminianism, on the other hand, maintains that God predestined, based upon His _____ of who would respond to Him in faith, and _____ He chose them. Jesus died for _____ peoples' sins who have ever lived and ever will live, not just the Christians. Each person is the one who _____ if he wants to be saved or not. And finally, it is possible to lose your _____ (some Arminians believe you cannot lose your salvation).

I want to offer one final word of my own before we start chewing on this meat of the Word of God. I have pastor friends in both of the camps described above and just about everywhere in between. Some of the godliest men I know are in different camps. While I myself will sometimes say of one of these dear friends, "How could they possibly believe that?" I say it knowing that while I am convinced that they are seriously wrong on some of the points of doctrine, they too are men who love the Lord and hold to the inerrancy and perfection of God's Word. Those who disagree with me here are not heretics. So I must remember to approach this with _____ toward all and _____ toward none. Now, let us begin our examination of the text!

²⁹ For
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It is interesting that the first significant word in this whole discussion we are about to enter is the word "foreknew." The noun form is foreknowledge. Like the English word, the Greek word is compound: *pro-ginosko*. *Ginosko* is a common and often used word which means "to _____." Pro is a prefix that means "_____." Most lexicons offer the short and simple definition "to know beforehand." This sense fits the use and translations of this verb in the New Testament:

Romans 11:2 NKJV God has not cast away His people whom He **foreknew**. ...

2 Peter 3:17 NKJV You therefore, beloved, since you **know this beforehand**, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;

Acts 26:5 NKJV They **knew** me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

1 Peter 1:20 NKJV He indeed was **foreordained** before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

However, The NASB recognizes "foreordained" as a _____ and corrects it to "**foreknown**."

I would say that “foreordained” could _____ be the meaning here because the statement would be virtually nonsensical. Such a translation would cause it to read “Whom He foreordained, He predestined.” Those two clauses would mean the _____ thing. No, the Holy Spirit tells us that there is something that God knew _____ He predestined individuals. And should this surprise us? Indeed not. God knows everything: past, present, and _____. Old and New Testament alike proclaim the omniscience of God.

Isaiah 42:9 NKJV Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

Daniel 2:28 NKJV But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. ...

Acts 15:18 NKJV “Known to God from eternity are all His works.

The clear meaning of the text is the obvious one, and it blends perfectly with the rest of Scripture. God _____ us beforehand. What did He know about us? Why _____ of course. Does God only know those things that He _____? Absolutely not, because God knows of our _____. Jesus knew that Peter would deny Him and when. Did God cause Peter to sin? Of course not. God never causes people to sin; He does not even _____ them to sin.

James 1:13 NKJV Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

Therefore God knows everything about us, everything we will ever do, even though He does not cause us to do everything we do. One of the things God knows is whether or not we will _____ the gospel and put our _____ in Christ. The fact that He knows does not mean that He causes or that He has _____ that we will do so. He can _____ without causing.

Calvinists are very rigid at this point, and will be quick to say that God did not predestine people _____ on His foreknowledge of what a person would choose to do in response to Christ or the gospel. The reason for their response is twofold. First, they say that man is _____ of responding to the gospel until he is regenerated by God, because before that point, man is dead in his sin. In the Reformed understanding, regeneration _____ faith, not the other way around. Second, Calvinists would say that God’s predestination of a person cannot be based on His foreknowledge of their faith because a man’s choice to believe in Christ makes salvation to be of man’s _____ and not wholly of God’s _____. If man has _____ part at all in determining whether he is saved or not, then salvation becomes a matter of works according to the Calvinist. We will consider these two points further as we deal with other texts, but for now, the issue is “_____ did God foreknow?” that preceded His act of predestination.

1 Peter 1:2 NKJV elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father...

God knew beforehand who would choose to use the gift of faith that He Himself would grant and who would consequently put their trust in Christ. On this basis God **predestined** each individual.

And “**predestined**” is the next word to be considered.

Sometimes people will say categorically, “I do not believe in predestination.” I have probably said that at some point in my life. Usually what people are saying is that they do not believe that God determines that one will go to heaven and another will go to hell without any consideration of what that person will choose to do in response to Christ. However, the statement, “I do not believe in predestination” is too _____ for a person grounded in God’s Word. Just as we insist that “**He foreknew**” be taken at face value for what it means, so we must do with the words “**He predestined.**” What does that word mean?

In Greek the word is *proorizo*. The prefix “*pro*” means the same as in our last word analysis: “_____” The word *orizo* means “to decide” or “to _____.” Therefore *proorizo* means to “decide _____” or to “determine beforehand.” The translation **predestined** is an accurate rendering, as is confirmed by its use in Ephesians 1.

Ephesians 1:5 NKJV having **predestined** us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Ephesians 1:11 NKJV In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestined** according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

So the Bible says that those whom God foreknew (those who would respond in faith to Christ), God **predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**. This is what the Bible calls sanctification, becoming more like _____. This is God’s eternal desire and purpose for us, that we be saved and become like Jesus.

³⁰ Moreover
whom He predestined,
these He also called;
whom He called,
these He also justified;
and whom He justified,
these He also
glorified.

Moreover (and in addition to this), those whom God **foreknew** and **predestined**, He also **called**. These same ones He **justified** (made them right with God), and ultimately all of those that He **foreknew, predestined, called, and justified**, shall be **glorified**. This is written in the past tense because it is an _____ fact, even if it has not yet occurred in time. Calvinists call this the Golden _____ of Redemption.

You do not have to be a Calvinist to appreciate that descriptive term. What a glorious chain it is, and how majestic is the God who forged it.

His love was great enough to make a creature in His own _____, after His likeness. He could have made man a _____ to do no more and no less than His maker decreed. But a robot is not like God, and our great God wanted man and woman to be made like Himself, not in every way, but in many ways. One of the first things we see of this new man in the Garden of Eden is that they were creatures given a _____, a choice about whether to obey their Creator or not.

Genesis 2:16–17 NKJV 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

There were many things to _____ them to make the right choice, and there were dire consequences for making the _____ choice. But the choice was _____. Both Adam and Eve had to decide. God did not cause them to sin nor even tempt them to sin. Eve and Adam both chose to sin.

The same can be said for each of us who are descendants of that first couple. We too are created in the image of God. We are not robots, we are made in His likeness and He allows us to choose. We do not get to choose _____ in our lives, but we get to choose some things. And one of the things the Bible repeatedly tells us that men and women must choose is whether or not to believe, have _____, put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself said it often when He walked upon the earth.

Mark 1:14–15 NKJV 14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

John 3:16 NKJV For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Because we inherit Adam’s fallen nature and are ourselves spiritually _____ in our sin, in and of ourselves we would never make the right choice and put faith in Christ. But we do not have to do it alone. The Holy Spirit _____ the lost of their sin, the righteousness of Christ, and the judgment to come. God gives the person under conviction the _____ of faith (Eph. 2:8-9) that gives them the capacity to believe. A person at that point makes their _____. Will they use the faith God has _____ to trust in the Lord Jesus who died on the cross to pay the penalty for their sin, making Him the Lord of their life. Or will they _____ to exercise the faith given by God and thus refuse to believe and remain lost.

In eternity past, God looked _____ so that He _____ who would use the faith when given to them and trust His Only Son. Those He foreknew, He predestined, called, justified, and glorified. All to the praise of His glory!
