

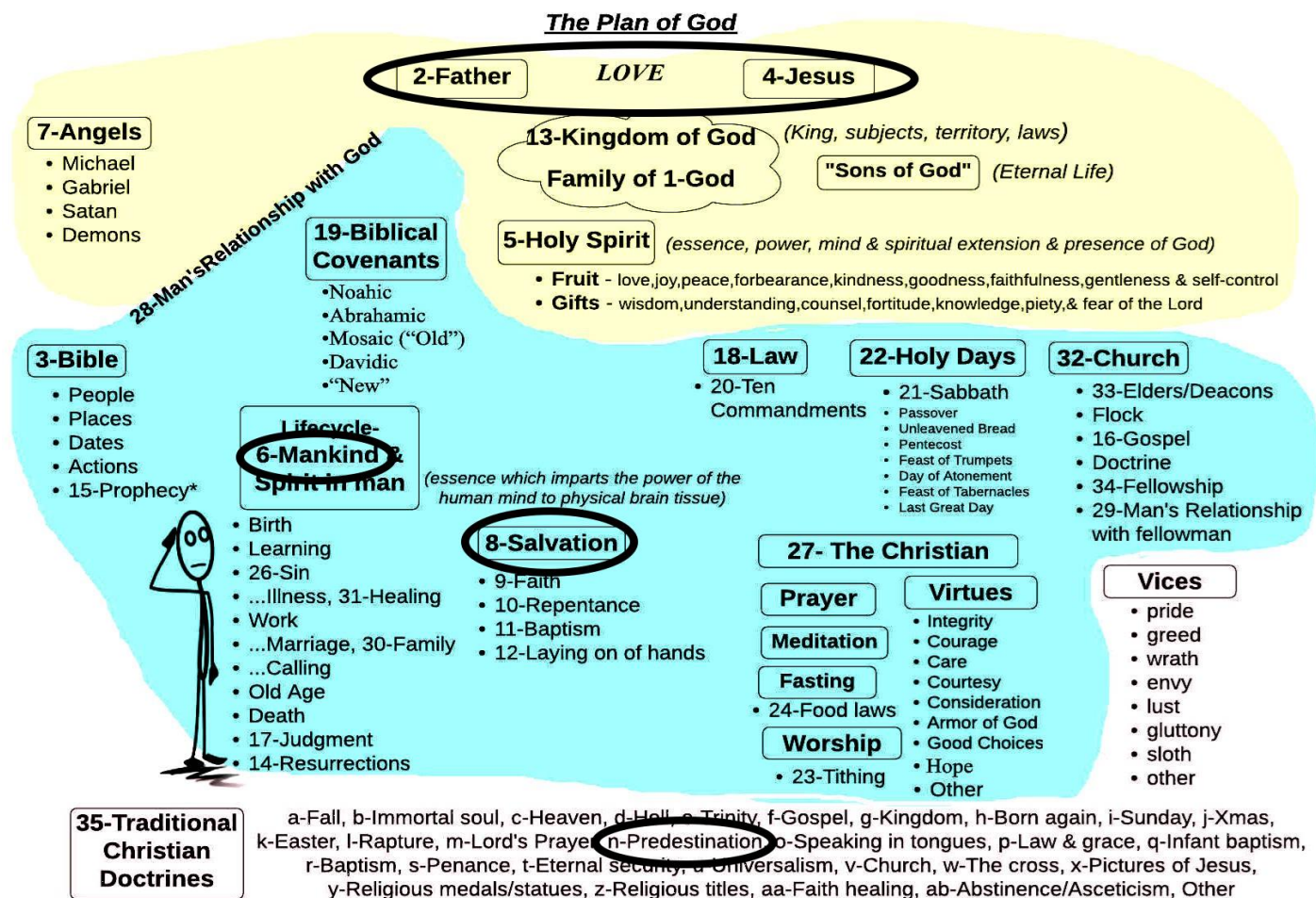
# Predestination - Is God Fair? Does mankind have free will?

Last week after services we had a chance for Q&A on Bible topics ... And the above question was posed by a member (whose name rhymes with "Caria").

## Predestination definition:

- ... to predetermine or foreordain; appoint beforehand by an unchangeable purpose  
**Isa\_46:10** Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure  
 Clearly, God can prophesy
- More specifically ... Predestination is the doctrine that **God has eternally chosen** those whom he intends to save...*(and those who will not be saved)*

**Question:** Has God predestined everyone's fate (to be saved or lost) before the creation of the world?



**Second Death** - (Perishing)

**Time:** (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... **Present** -(World events) ... (**Future** - 15-Prophecy\*) ... **Eternity** ...)

Throughout history... man has devised & worshipped gods who participated in murder, rape, cannibalism, incest, torture, & even eternal punishments.



Humans conceive of all manner of craziness to “appease” such gods

**Deu\_12:31** Thou shalt **not** do so unto the LORD thy God: for every **abomination** to the LORD, which he **hates**, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

But ... in scripture, we are told that God - **the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob** is **different**

**Psa 107:1** Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is **good!** For His **mercy** endures forever.

**Psa 145:17** The LORD is **righteous** in all His ways, **Gracious** in all His works.

**Jas 1:17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is **no variation or shadow of turning**.

**Psa 25:8** **Good** and **upright** is the LORD; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.

- (NET) The LORD is both **kind** & **fair**; that is why he teaches sinners the right way to live
- (CJB-Complete Jewish Bible) Adonai is **good**, and He is **fair**

Throughout history...man has endeavoured to KNOW God, to study His word, & (believing the Bible to be true) ... to assemble teachings together to create Doctrines - beliefs about God & His creation. Doctrines being created & explored ... are influenced by beliefs, other doctrines, good or evil intentions. The Holy Spirit can lead men to Truth ... and sometimes men’s “flawed understanding” or evil motives or evil spirits can lead men to error (in their doctrines).

To more fully answer the question about **Predestination & Is God fair?** we need to understand some **Doctrinal models** that church men have devised to “help guide our understanding” to help guide our exploration in the Bible. Presumably, sincere scholars of scripture came up with these -- in their reading of scripture, & their attempts to reconcile “difficult scriptures”

## **4 Ideas about Predestination**

(Grey highlighting = Ideas that CGI teaches are **not scriptural**)

### **1. Augustinian/Calvinistic Predestination:**

- **Associated Groups:** Calvinism, Reformed theology, Presbyterianism
- **Description:** This view, heavily influenced by the writings of Augustine of Hippo and John Calvin, holds that God predestines certain individuals for salvation (the elect) and others for damnation (the reprobate). It emphasizes divine sovereignty in salvation and typically includes the concept of double predestination.

## Proof texts “in support” of Augustinian/Calvinistic Predestination:

**Ephesians 1:4-5:** "just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having **predestined** us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will"

**Romans 8:29-30:** "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. Moreover, whom He **predestined**, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."

**Romans 9:10-24** (especially verses 11, 15-16, 18): "And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac... For He says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.' So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy... Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens."

**2 Timothy 1:9** "who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began"

**Acts 13:48** "Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had **been appointed** to eternal life believed."

Note: GW-"been prepared for" NW-"who were rightly disposed for" Rotherham- "become disposed for"

**John 6:37, 44, 65** "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out... No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me **draws him**... And He said, 'Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.'"

The infographic is titled "Calvinism" and features a red tulip flower with green leaves. Below the flower, the text "TULIP Theory" is written in red and black. To the right of the flower, five key doctrines are listed, each with a brief explanation:

- T**otal Hereditary Depravity  
Man's nature is corrupt  
No ability to choose good over evil
- U**nconditional Election  
God's choice – A few saved  
All others excluded from salvation
- L**imited Atonement  
Limited to certain individuals  
Righteousness to chosen ones only
- I**rresistible Grace  
Faith by direct operation of the Holy Spirit  
Holy Spirit never fails to convert the elect
- P**erseverance of the Saints  
Given faith, kept in faith  
If fall away, then never in grace

These ideas are contrary to so many other scriptures!

(So... the Church of God rejects Calvinism -- as being a **VERY WRONG** interpretation of scripture)

## 10 QUESTIONS FOR CALVINISTS

### If Calvinism is true...

1. Why does the devil fight to stop people from believing? (II Cor. 4:4)
2. Why does God blind the eyes of some to ensure they don't believe? (John 12:40)
3. Why is Jesus amazed that some people do not believe? (Mark 6:6)
4. Why is God angry at those who do not repent? (Mark 6:11-12)
5. Why does the Bible teach that there will be a great falling away? (II Thess. 2:3)
6. Why is salvation more prevalent where the Bible is prevalent? (Rom. 10:17)
7. Why do Christians have blood on their hands if they do not witness? (Acts 20:26)
8. Why does God give time to repent? (Rev. 2:21)
9. Why does the Bible say salvation is available for all? (I Tim. 2:4-6)
10. Why does God blot people out of the Book of Life? (Rev. 3:5)


**CALVINISM IS A LIE.**

## 2. Arminian Predestination (\*\*Cgi Aligns *best* with this)

- **Associated Groups:** Arminianism, Methodism, Wesleyanism
- **Description:** Arminian theology, named after the Dutch theologian Jacobus Arminius, emphasizes the role of human free will in salvation. While God foreknows who will choose to believe in him, predestination in this view is conditional upon individuals' response to God's grace. It rejects the notion of double predestination.

Calvinist TULIP	Arminian ALLs
<b>Total Depravity</b> <i>All need to be saved. We are unable to save ourselves and utterly dependent on God.</i>	<b>All need to be saved</b> <i>Because all have sinned</i>
<b>Unconditional Election</b> <i>God freely chooses who will be saved, apart from any merit, and leaves the rest in their misery and condemnation.</i>	<b>God desires that all be saved</b> <i>God's love extends to all humanity. He does not want any to perish but all to come to repentance.</i>
<b>Limited Atonement</b> <i>The saving effects of Christ's atoning death are limited to the elect.</i>	<b>All can be saved</b> <i>Christ's atoning death is sufficient for everyone and effective for all who receive it.</i>
<b>Irresistible Grace</b> <i>God saves those he has chosen to save, in spite of themselves. God's grace overcomes their human resistance.</i>	<b>All can receive grace</b> <i>God's prevenient grace enables everyone to become aware of their depravity and receive God's justifying and sanctifying grace</i>
<b>Perseverance of the Saints</b> <i>Those whom God has chosen cannot lose their salvation.</i>	<b>All can know they are saved, but all can fall from grace</b> <i>We can be assured of our salvation by the Spirit's testimony in our hearts. But we can also make shipwreck of our faith.</i>

## Proof texts to support Arminianism - (to say TULIP is ALL wrong!)

1. **John 3:16** 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.
  2. **1 Timothy 2:3-4** For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who **desires all men** to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
  3. **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish** but that **all** should come to repentance.
  4. **Titus 2:11** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to **all men**.
  5. **1 John 2:2** And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the **whole world**.
  6. **Romans 5:18** Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to **all men**, resulting in justification of life.
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7. **John 12:32** And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw **all peoples** to Myself.
  8. **Romans 10:13** For 'whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'
  9. **Revelation 22:17** & the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' & let him who hears say, 'Come!' & let him who thirsts come. **Whoever desires**, let him take the water of life freely."
  10. **Hebrews 2:9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for **everyone**.
  11. **Acts 17:30** Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands **all men everywhere** to repent.
12. **1 Timothy 4:10** For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of **all men**, especially of those who believe.
  13. **Romans 11:32** "For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have **mercy on all**."
  14. **John 6:40** And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that **everyone** who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.
  15. **Acts 2:21** And it shall come to pass that **whoever** calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.
  16. **Isaiah 45:22** Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

17. **Matthew 18:14** Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

18. **John 5:24** Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me** has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

19. **John 6:51** I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If **anyone** eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.

20. **John 11:25-26** Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. **He who believes in Me**, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'

21. **Romans 3:22-24** Even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, **to all & on all who believe**. For there is no difference; for all have sinned & fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

22. **Romans 10:11-12** For the Scripture says, '**Whoever** believes on Him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

23. **2 Corinthians 5:19** That is, that God was in Christ reconciling **the world** to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

24. **Ephesians 1:13** In Him you also **trusted**, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having **believed**, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

25. **Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door & knock. If **anyone** hears My voice & opens the door, I will come in to him & dine with him & he with Me.

26. **Luke 19:10** "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save **that which was lost**.

27. **Acts 10:34-35** Then Peter opened his mouth and said: 'In truth I perceive that **God shows no partiality**. But in every nation **whoever** fears Him & works righteousness is accepted by Him.'

28. **Romans 2:6-8** "Who 'will render to each one **according to his deeds**': eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, & immortality; but to those who are self-seeking & do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation & wrath.

29. **Hebrews 10:10** By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once **for all**.



### 3. Corporate Election

- **Associated Groups:** Certain forms of Anglicanism, some Reformed and Lutheran theologians
- **Description:** This view emphasizes that God's election is primarily corporate, applying to the community of believers rather than individual persons. It suggests that God predestines the Church as a whole for salvation without necessarily predetermining the fate of every individual member.

#### Consider ...

**Rom 10:9** ... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, **you** will be saved.

**Eze 18:20-21** **The soul** who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon **himself**, & the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon **himself**. But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, & does what is lawful & right, he shall surely live; he shall not die

**Mar 16:16** **He who believes and is baptized** will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

### 4. Universalism:

- **Associated Groups:** Some liberal Christian denominations, Unitarian Universalism
- **Description:** Universalism teaches that ultimately, **all** individuals will be saved and reconciled to God. While not all adherents of universalism may frame their beliefs in terms of predestination, some do so by asserting that **God's predestined plan includes the salvation of all humanity.**

#### Consider ...

**Luk 13:23-28** Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" & He said to them Luk 13:24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter & will not be able.

Luk 13:25 When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' & He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,'

Luk 13:26 then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.'

Luk 13:27 But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you **workers of iniquity.**'

Luk 13:28 There will be weeping & gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham & Isaac & Jacob & all the prophets in the kingdom of God, & yourselves thrust out.

**Rev 20:15** And **anyone** not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.



## CGI Doctrinal Statement on PREDESTINATION

God has *not* predetermined, nor can He even know in advance, whether or not a person will yield himself to God, strive for perfection, and succeed in entering into His Kingdom. **God has predestined** that He will give human beings the opportunity to conform to the image of His Son if they decide to do so. **God has also predestined** that He would choose a certain group in this end time to fulfill His commission and qualify for His Kingdom now.

Thus predestination refers solely to the **time of one's calling**, when God decides to open a person's mind to His truth, thereby giving him an opportunity for salvation.

***Romans 8:28–30; 10:1; Ephesians 1:3–11; Hebrews 6:4–6***

**Rom 8:28-30** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Rom 8:29 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.

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom He **predestined**, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

**Rom 10:1** Brethren, my heart's desire & prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

**Eph 1:3-11** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

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

Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Eph 1:8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

Eph 1:9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

Eph 1:10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven & which are on earth—in Him.

Eph 1:11 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

**Heb 6:4-6** For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,

Heb 6:5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

Heb 6:6 if they **fall away**, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

What Does the Bible Say About

**Predestination  
and Election?**

*Has your ultimate destiny already been set?*