

# Sermon Outline

## THE GOD WHO PREDESTINED US | Geoff Lin

**Bible reading:** Ephesians 1:3-6; Matthew 20:1-16

### 1. The doctrines of election and pre-destination

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he **chose** us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he **predestined** us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

- Rom 8:29, 30; 1 Corinthians 2:7; Acts 4:28; Ephesians 1:5, 11

WHY would God choose us (before the creation of the world): because He \_\_\_\_\_ us

### 2. 2 main objections which question God's character

#### i. "It's not fair" (isn't God unjust?)

Ephesians 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

If God treated us "fairly" - as we deserved - then \_\_\_\_\_ would be saved

Matthew 20:15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?

#### ii. "I can't be held responsible" (hasn't God denied me of choice?)

"The Bible teaches that both of the following propositions are true: 1. God is absolutely sovereign, but his sovereignty never functions in such a way that human responsibility is curtailed, minimized, or mitigated. 2. Human beings are morally responsible creatures - they significantly choose, rebel, obey, believe, defy, make decisions, and so forth, and they are rightly held accountable for such actions; but this characteristic never functions so as to make God absolutely contingent ... The view that both of these propositions are true I shall call *compatibilism*." (DA Carson, *How Long O Lord: Reflections on Suffering and Evil*)

Exodus 9:34 When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he sinned again: He and his officials hardened their hearts. 35 So Pharaoh's heart was hard and he would not let the Israelites go, just as the LORD had said through Moses. 10:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them ..."

i. Pharaoh's heart was hard/became hard (7:13, 22; 8:19; 9:7, 35)

ii. Pharaoh hardened his heart (8:15, 32; 9:34)

iii. The LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart (9:12; 10:1, 20, 27)

The Lord's Prayer

"God always leans towards m \_\_\_\_\_ (not rewarding m \_\_\_\_\_)"

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

### 3. (Some) pastoral responses

#### i. "Make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)

Eph 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

#### ii. Comfort (and assurance)

*The 39 Articles (17):* Predestination, and our Election in Christ, is full of sweet, pleasant and unspeakable comfort to godly persons

John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."

"If you're not sure you've been pre-destined, get yourself pre-destined today!"