

# CHOSEN BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN

*A Ten-Point Sermon on the Doctrine of Predestination*

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Scripture · Word Study · Reformation Voices · Application

***"He chose us in Him before the creation of the world."***

— Ephesians 1:4

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## INTRODUCTION

Few doctrines in all of Scripture stir the heart like predestination. It is a word that makes some people break into a cold sweat and others drop to their knees in worship. It is the mountain peak of God's sovereign grace — a truth that the Reformers fought for, the Apostle Paul celebrated, and Jesus Himself proclaimed. This sermon walks through ten great biblical pillars of predestination, anchoring each point in the original languages of Scripture, the voices of the Reformation, and the practical lessons God's Word demands we learn.

A word about translation: all Scripture paraphrases in this sermon — including every cross-reference verse — are rendered in plain American English, keeping the full meaning of the original Greek and Hebrew while making every sentence clear to ordinary ears.

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## **POINT ONE: GOD'S CHOICE WAS MADE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN**

### **Ephesians 1:4–5**

*"God chose us to be in Christ before He laid the very first brick of creation. He decided ahead of time that He would adopt us as His own children through Jesus Christ — and He did it because that is exactly what He wanted to do, for the praise of His glorious grace."*

### **GREEK WORD STUDY**

**ἐκλέγομαι** (*eklegomai*) — to select, to choose out of a group — implies a deliberate, personal, sovereign act of choosing one individual from among many. Used of God's election in the strongest possible sense.

**προορίσας** (*proorisas*) — from *pro* (before) + *horizō* (to set a boundary or horizon) — to mark out the destination beforehand. God drew the boundary of your destiny before time began.

**πρό** (*pro*) — before, in front of, prior to — emphasizing that God's election is not reactive but eternally proactive.

### **REFORMATION VOICE**

*"Predestination we call the eternal decree of God by which He has determined in Himself what He would have to become of every individual of mankind. For they are not all created with a similar destiny; but eternal life is foreordained for some, and eternal damnation for others." — John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, III.21.5*

## CROSS-REFERENCES

### Romans 8:29–30

*"Those God knew ahead of time, He also decided ahead of time would be shaped into the image of His Son. And those He decided on, He also called. Those He called, He made right with Himself. And those He made right with Himself, He lifted into His glory."*

### 2 Timothy 1:9

*"God saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we did, but because of His own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the world even began."*

### John 15:16

*"You did not choose Me. I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name."*

### Acts 13:48

*"When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord. And all who had been appointed to eternal life believed."*

### 1 Peter 1:1–2

*"To God's chosen people who are scattered like strangers throughout the world — chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, set apart by the Spirit to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood. May grace and peace be yours in great measure."*

♦ **KEY LESSON:** Your salvation did not begin the day you walked an aisle or said a prayer. It began in the eternal mind of God before stars were hung in space. This is not cold theology — it is the warmest possible comfort. You did not choose God by accident. He chose you on purpose.

## POINT TWO: ELECTION IS ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL, NOT OUR WORTHINESS

### Romans 9:11–13

*"Before those twins — Jacob and Esau — were even born, before they had done anything good or bad, God told their mother: 'The older will serve the younger.' This was to prove that God's choosing does not depend on what a person does — it depends entirely on the One who calls. Just as it says in Scripture: 'Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.'"*

## HEBREW WORD STUDY

**אהב** (*ahav*) — to love, to choose with deep covenantal commitment — used here not merely of emotion but of sovereign selection and covenant devotion.

**שנא** (*sane*) — to hate, to set aside, to reject — in Hebrew comparative idiom this means 'to love less' or 'to not elect.' Malachi 1:2–3 shows this is about covenant status, not personal grudge.

**בְּחִירָה** (*bechirah*) — election, choice — the act of God's free selection of a people for Himself. Used throughout the Old Testament of Israel's election.

## REFORMATION VOICE

*"God foreknows nothing contingently, but that He foresees, purposes, and does all*

things according to His own immutable, eternal, and infallible will. By this thunderbolt, free-will is thrown prostrate and utterly dashed to pieces." — **Martin Luther, The Bondage of the Will (1525)**

## CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Romans 9:15–16**

"God said to Moses: 'I will show mercy to whoever I choose to show mercy to, and I will have compassion on whoever I choose to have compassion on.' So then, it does not depend on the person who wants it or the one who works hard for it — it depends on God, who shows mercy."

### **Deuteronomy 7:6–8**

"You are a holy people belonging to the Lord your God. He chose you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be His treasured possession. The Lord did not set His love on you or choose you because you outnumbered other peoples — you were the smallest of all nations. He chose you because He loved you and because He was keeping the promise He made to your ancestors."

### **Psalms 65:4**

"Blessed is the one You choose and bring near to live in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple."

### **John 6:37, 44**

"All those the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never drive away. No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws them — and I will raise them up on the last day."

### **Matthew 11:25–26**

"At that time Jesus said, 'I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and educated and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, this is what pleased You.'"

♦ **KEY LESSON:** God did not choose you because you were smarter, more sincere, or more spiritual than anyone else. He chose you because He is merciful and it pleased Him to do so. This kills pride and births gratitude.

## **POINT THREE: FOREKNOWLEDGE MEANS FORE-LOVE, NOT MERE FORESIGHT**

### **Romans 8:29**

"Those whom God knew ahead of time, He also decided ahead of time would be shaped into the image of His Son — so that Jesus would be the firstborn of a huge family of brothers and sisters."

## GREEK WORD STUDY

**προέγνω** (*proegnō*) — from pro + ginōskō — not merely 'to know about in advance' but 'to enter into relationship with beforehand.' In Hebrew idiom, to 'know' is often to 'love relationally' (Genesis 4:1; Amos 3:2; Jeremiah 1:5).

**συμμόρφους** (*symmorphous*) — conformed to the same shape, molded into the same form — God's ultimate goal for the elect is not just heaven but Christlikeness.

**εἰκόνας** (*eikonos*) — image, likeness — echoes Genesis 1:26–27. Predestination restores what the Fall destroyed.

## REFORMATION VOICE

"God's foreknowledge of men is not a bare prescience or foresight of their future acts; it is a foreknowledge of approbation and love — a knowing of them with a peculiar,

distinguishing favor and delight." — **John Owen, The Death of Death in the Death of Christ (1647)**

## CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Jeremiah 1:5**

*"Before I formed you in your mother's womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations."*

### **Amos 3:2**

*"Out of all the families on the earth, I have chosen only you. Therefore I will punish you for all your sins."*

### **Genesis 18:19**

*"I have chosen Abraham so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord may bring about for Abraham what He has promised him."*

### **1 Peter 1:20**

*"Christ was chosen before the creation of the world, but He was revealed in these last times for your sake."*

### **1 Corinthians 8:3**

*"But whoever loves God is known by God."*

♦ **KEY LESSON:** When the Bible says God 'foreknew' you, it means He set His heart on you before you existed. This is not God watching a video of your future faith and responding to it — it is God loving you into faith by His own sovereign act.

## **POINT FOUR: THE GOLDEN CHAIN: CALLED, JUSTIFIED, GLORIFIED**

### **Romans 8:30**

*"And those He decided on ahead of time, He also called. And those He called, He also put right with Himself. And those He put right with Himself, He also lifted up into His glory."*

## GREEK WORD STUDY

**ἐκάλεσεν** (*ekalesen*) — he called — in Reformed theology, this is the 'effectual call,' not merely a general invitation but a powerful inward summons that achieves its purpose (contrasted with the 'general call' in Matthew 22:14).

**ἐδικαίωσεν** (*edikaiōsen*) — he justified — declared righteous, acquitted completely. A legal forensic term from the law courts of Rome.

**ἐδόξασεν** (*edoxasen*) — he glorified — notably in the past tense (aorist), meaning that in God's eternal decree, the glorification of the elect is already so certain it is spoken of as done.

## REFORMATION VOICE

*"The golden chain of Romans 8 cannot be broken at any link. Those whom God elected, He called; those He called, He justified; those He justified, He glorified. The chain descends from heaven and lifts the sinner to glory — and not one link is forged by human effort." — **Theodore Beza, The Life of John Calvin (1564)***

## CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Romans 8:28**

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."*

### **John 6:39–40**

*"And this is the will of the One who sent Me — that I should not lose any of those He has given Me, but raise them all up on the last day. For it is My Father's will that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day."*

### **Philippians 1:6**

*"I am confident of this very thing — that the One who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

### **1 Corinthians 1:8–9**

*"He will keep you strong right up to the end so that you will be without blame on the day our Lord Jesus Christ returns. God is faithful, and He is the One who called you into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."*

### **Jude 24–25**

*"Now to the One who is able to keep you from falling and to bring you into His glorious presence without any fault and with great joy — to the only God our Savior, be glory, majesty, power, and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forever. Amen."*

♦ **KEY LESSON:** Salvation is not a chain with a broken link. If God chose you, He will call you. If He called you, He will justify you. If He justified you, He will glorify you. Your final salvation is as certain as God's own faithfulness.

## **POINT FIVE: PREDESTINATION DOES NOT DESTROY HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Acts 2:23**

*"This man Jesus was handed over to you by God's own deliberate plan and foreknowledge — and you, using wicked men as your instruments, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross."*

### **GREEK WORD STUDY**

**ὁρισμένη βουλή** (*hōrismenē boulē*) — determined purpose/counsel — the same root as *proorisas*. God's plan was fixed and bounded in eternity.

**προγνώσει** (*prognōsei*) — foreknowledge — used here alongside God's decree, showing they work together.

**ἐκδοτον** (*ekdoton*) — handed over, delivered up — God was in sovereign control of the crucifixion, yet the men who crucified Jesus sinned freely and were fully responsible.

### **REFORMATION VOICE**

*"It is a wicked thing to excuse our own evil by the will of God. The sovereignty of God does not excuse sin because men act from their own will, not God's compulsion. Both things are true: God ordains, and men sin freely. Reconcile them? I cannot. Deny either? I dare not." — John Calvin, Commentary on Acts 2:23 (1554)*

### **CROSS-REFERENCES**

#### **Acts 4:27–28**

*"In this city, Herod and Pontius Pilate got together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed — doing exactly what Your power and will had decided ahead of time would happen."*

#### **Genesis 50:20**

*"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good — to accomplish what is now being done, to save many lives."*

### Isaiah 10:5–7

*"The Lord says: 'Assyria is the rod of My anger! In their hands is the club of My fury. I send them against a godless nation. But this is not what Assyria intends. This is not what they are thinking. Their plan is to destroy, to cut off many nations.'"*

### Proverbs 16:9

*"In their hearts people plan their own course, but the Lord establishes their steps."*

### Philippians 2:12–13

*"Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling — because it is God who is working in you, both to will and to act according to His good purpose."*

♦ **KEY LESSON:** Predestination does not make us robots. God's sovereignty and human responsibility are both true — they are parallel train tracks that hold up the same train. Never use God's sovereignty as an excuse to sit still. 'Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you.'

## POINT SIX: THE FATHER GAVE THE ELECT TO THE SON

### John 6:37–39

*"Everyone the Father gives Me will come to Me. Anyone who comes to Me I will never turn away. I came down from heaven not to do My own will but to do the will of the One who sent Me. And His will is this: that I should lose none of those He has given Me, but raise them all up on the last day."*

### GREEK WORD STUDY

**πάν ὃ δίδωσίν μοι** (*pan ho didōsin moi*) — all that the Father gives Me — a neuter collective noun, treating the elect as a definite group, a gift from Father to Son settled in eternity.

**ἔξει** (*hēxei*) — will come — future indicative, not subjunctive. It is a certainty, not a possibility. Those given will come.

**οὐ μὴ ἐκβάλω ἔξω** (*ou mē ekbalō exō*) — I will absolutely never cast out — the strongest Greek negative possible (double negative *ou mē* + aorist subjunctive), expressing the impossibility of rejection.

### REFORMATION VOICE

*"The sheep of Christ are those whom the Father gave to the Son from eternity. Not one of them shall perish. The Good Shepherd knows His own by name, and no wolf, no sin, and no power of hell can snatch them from His hand." — Ulrich Zwingli, On Providence (1530)*

### CROSS-REFERENCES

#### John 10:27–29

*"My sheep listen to My voice. I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all — and no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand."*

#### John 17:2, 6, 9

*"You gave the Son authority over all people so that He might give eternal life to all those You have given Him. I have revealed You to those whom You gave Me out of the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those You have given Me — because they are Yours."*

#### John 6:44–45

*"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws them, and I will raise them up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has*

*heard the Father and learned from Him comes to Me."*

### **Romans 8:35–39**

*"Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, hardship, persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger, or death? No — in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. I am convinced that nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

### **Hebrews 7:25**

*"Because of this, Jesus is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them."*

♦ **KEY LESSON:** Jesus did not come to make salvation possible for everyone without saving anyone in particular. He came to save a definite people the Father gave Him — and He will lose none of them. Every true believer can rest in this: Jesus is personally committed to bringing you home.

## **POINT SEVEN: GOD HARDENS AND GOD HAS MERCY — BOTH ARE HIS RIGHT**

### **Romans 9:18–21**

*"So then, God shows mercy to whoever He wants to show mercy to, and He hardens the heart of whoever He chooses to harden. You will say to me: 'Then why does God still find fault? Who can resist what He has already decided?' But who are you — a mere human being — to talk back to God? Does a clay pot ask the potter, 'Why did you shape me this way?' Doesn't the potter have the right to make from the same lump of clay one pot for special occasions and another for everyday use?"*

### **GREEK WORD STUDY**

**σκληρύνει** (*sklērunēi*) — he hardens — not that God creates evil in Pharaoh, but that He withholds restraining grace and allows the sinner's own hardness to run its course and calcify. Compare Exodus 4:21 alongside Exodus 8:15.

**πηλοῦ** (*pēlou*) — clay, mud — deliberately earthy, lowly material. The image destroys human pride before a sovereign God.

**κεράμεως** (*kerameōs*) — potter — the craftsman with total creative authority over his material. Paul draws from Jeremiah 18:1–10 and Isaiah 29:16; 45:9.

### **REFORMATION VOICE**

*"I am caught. I confess God can do all things. I confess, therefore, that God could have saved all men if He had willed it. But I dare not call Him unjust for not saving all, for He owes salvation to no one. He is debtor to none. His mercy is mercy precisely because it is undeserved." — Martin Luther, Letter to Erasmus (1525)*

### **CROSS-REFERENCES**

#### **Exodus 9:16**

*"I raised you up for this very reason — to show you My power and to make My name known throughout the whole earth."*

#### **Proverbs 16:4**

*"The Lord has made everything for His own purposes — even the wicked for a day of disaster."*

#### **Isaiah 45:9–10**

*"What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, 'Stop, you're doing it wrong!'"*

*Does the pot exclaim, 'How clumsy can you be?'"*

### **Jeremiah 18:1–10**

*"The Lord gave Jeremiah this message: 'Go down to the potter's shop and I will speak to you there.' So he went and found the potter working at his wheel. But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over. Then the Lord gave this message: 'O Israel, can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand.'"*

### **1 Peter 2:8**

*"They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them."*

♦ **KEY LESSON:** God owes no one salvation. If He saved only one person in the entire history of the world, He would be perfectly just. The question is never: 'Why does God not save everyone?' The real wonder is: 'Why does God save anyone?' The answer is grace — free, sovereign, undeserved grace.

## **POINT EIGHT: ELECTION IS THE ROOT OF ASSURANCE AND PERSEVERANCE**

### **2 Timothy 2:19**

*"But God's solid foundation still stands firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows who belongs to Him,' and, 'Everyone who claims to belong to the Lord must turn away from wickedness.'"*

### **GREEK WORD STUDY**

**στερεὸς θεμέλιος** (*stereos themelios*) — solid/firm foundation — the word stereos means hard, rigid, immovable. The foundation of God's election does not shift with the winds of human unfaithfulness.

**ἔγνω Κύριος** (*egnō Kyrios*) — the Lord knew — echoing Numbers 16:5 and the divine knowledge of personal relationship. God does not merely know about His people; He knows them intimately.

**σφραγίς** (*sphragis*) — seal, signet — a legal mark of ownership and security, like a king's wax seal on an official document.

### **REFORMATION VOICE**

*"The elect of God cannot finally fall from grace. Not because they are strong, but because God who chose them is faithful. He who began a good work in them will bring it to completion. The elect sin — yes. They stumble — yes. But they do not fall away from the covenant of God's election." — John Knox, The Scots Confession (1560)*

### **CROSS-REFERENCES**

#### **John 10:28**

*"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish — and no one will snatch them out of My hand."*

#### **Romans 8:35–39**

*"Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, hardship, persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger, or death? No — in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

#### **Philippians 1:6**

*"I am confident of this very thing — that the One who started a good work in you will carry it through to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

#### **1 John 2:19**

*"They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. If they had belonged to us, they would have stayed with us. Their going showed that none of them truly belonged to us."*

#### **Hebrews 10:14**

*"By one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."*

♦ **KEY LESSON:** If you could lose your salvation, you would. Your only hope is that your salvation rests on God's election, not your performance. This does not produce laziness — it produces fearless, joyful obedience, because you serve from security, not from terror.

## **POINT NINE: PREDESTINATION PRODUCES MISSION, NOT PARALYSIS**

#### **Acts 18:9–10**

*"One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision: 'Don't be afraid. Keep speaking — do not go silent. I am with you. No one is going to attack you and hurt you, because I have many people in this city.'"*

#### **GREEK WORD STUDY**

**λαὸς μοί** (*laos moi*) — my people — used of God's covenant people, the elect. God told Paul His elect were in Corinth before Paul had preached a single sermon there.

**λάλει** (*lalei*) — speak, keep speaking — present imperative, ongoing continuous action. Predestination was Paul's fuel for preaching, not a reason to stop.

**μηδεὶς ἐπιθήσεται σοί** (*mēdeis epithēsetai soi*) — no one will attack you — God's protection of His missionary was itself an act of providence over His elect people.

#### **REFORMATION VOICE**

*"Predestination is the foundation of the preacher's confidence. We preach to all because we do not know who the elect are. But we preach with confidence because we know God's purpose will stand. Not one of the elect will be missing from glory, and the preached Word is the very instrument God uses to call them." — William Perkins, A Golden Chain (1591)*

#### **CROSS-REFERENCES**

##### **Romans 10:13–17**

*"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how can they call on someone they have not believed in? And how can they believe in someone they have not heard of? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ."*

##### **2 Timothy 2:10**

*"I endure everything for the sake of God's chosen people, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory."*

##### **1 Corinthians 1:18–21**

*"The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it pleased God through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe."*

##### **Isaiah 55:10–11**

*"As rain and snow come down from the sky and do not return there without watering the earth*

and making it produce crops — so is My word that goes out from My mouth. It will not come back to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

#### **Matthew 28:18–20**

"Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

♦ **KEY LESSON:** Predestination is not a reason to stay home — it is a reason to go everywhere. You do not know who God's elect are. They are in every city, every neighborhood, every family. Your job is to preach the gospel to all. God will call His own through your voice.

## **POINT TEN: PREDESTINATION ENDS IN PRAISE — NOT PRIDE**

#### **Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14**

"God did all of this so that we would praise Him for His glorious grace, which He has given us freely in His Son whom He loves... so that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, would bring praise to His glory... so that all of this would result in the praise of His glory."

#### **GREEK WORD STUDY**

**ἔπαινον δόξης τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ** (*epainon doxēs tēs charitos autou*) — praise of the glory of His grace — this phrase or near equivalent appears three times in Ephesians 1 (vv. 6, 12, 14), like a three-fold doxology. Predestination is structured for doxology.

**χάριτος** (*charitos*) — grace — unmerited favor. Grace is the atmosphere in which election breathes. There is no predestination apart from grace and no grace that is not sovereign.

**κληρονομίας** (*klēronomias*) — inheritance — the language of heirs, of children who receive what was prepared for them before they were born. We are heirs of glory by adoption, not achievement.

#### **REFORMATION VOICE**

"Election is not a cause for swelling pride but for humble, everlasting praise. When I look at myself, I see only ruin. When I look at Christ, I see my election. The doctrine of predestination drives me out of myself and into the arms of grace — and every time I arrive there, I can only say: to God alone be the glory." — **John Calvin, Commentary on Ephesians 1:4 (1548)**

#### **CROSS-REFERENCES**

##### **Romans 11:33–36**

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How impossible it is for us to understand His decisions and His ways! For who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to give Him advice? And who has given Him so much that He needs to pay it back? For everything comes from Him and exists by His power and is intended for His glory. All glory to Him forever!"

##### **1 Corinthians 1:26–31**

"Remember what you were when God called you. Not many of you were wise by human standards. Not many were powerful. Not many were from noble families. But God chose what the world calls foolish to shame the wise. He chose what the world calls weak to shame the strong. He chose what is low and despised — things that are nothing at all — to do away with

*the things that are everything, so that no one could ever boast in the presence of God."*

**Revelation 4:11**

*"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, because You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being."*

**Psalms 115:1**

*"Not to us, Lord, not to us — but to Your name be the glory, because of Your love and faithfulness."*

**Isaiah 43:7**

*"Everyone who is called by My name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made."*

♦ **KEY LESSON:** If the doctrine of predestination makes you feel superior to others, you have not understood it. When you truly grasp that God chose you not because of anything in you, the only right response is to fall on your face and weep with gratitude. The elect are the humblest people on earth — or they should be.

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## CONCLUSION: BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN — AND ALL THE WAY TO GLORY

Here is the breathtaking sweep of predestination: before the stars were made, God chose you. Before you drew your first breath, He set His love upon you. When you were dead in your sins, He sent His Spirit to call you. When you were helpless and guilty, He justified you freely in Christ. Right now, while you stumble through this broken world, He is keeping you. And one day — soon — He will raise you and glorify you, and not one of His elect will be missing from the table.

The Reformers did not discover this doctrine. They recovered it from the pages of Paul, Peter, John, and Jesus Himself. They were willing to be hated, exiled, and burned at the stake for it, because they believed that a God big enough to choose you is big enough to keep you — and that is very good news for very weak sinners.

To the one who says, 'But how do I know if I am elect?' — the answer is: look to Christ. The invitation of the gospel is to all: 'Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28). If you come to Jesus today, you will discover that you came because you were drawn — and you were drawn because you were chosen. Come to Christ and you will find your election in Him.

*"I love to look at these golden links of the chain — foreknown, predestinated, called, justified, glorified. Who shall break it? Not earth. Not hell. Not death. Not sin. The chain holds because God holds the chain." — C.H. Spurgeon, Sermon on Romans 8:30 (1858)*

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## SERMON SUMMARY AT A GLANCE

#	Point	Key Text	Key Lesson
1	<b>Chosen Before Creation</b>	<i>Eph. 1:4-5</i>	Kill pride; birth gratitude
2	<b>Election by Will, Not Worthiness</b>	<i>Romans 9:11-13</i>	God owes no one election
3	<b>Foreknowledge = Fore-</b>	<i>Romans 8:29</i>	God set His heart on you

#	Point	Key Text	Key Lesson
	Love		first
4	The Golden Chain	<i>Romans 8:30</i>	Not one link is broken
5	Sovereignty + Responsibility	<i>Acts 2:23</i>	No excuse for passivity
6	The Father's Gift to the Son	<i>John 6:37-39</i>	Jesus loses none He was given
7	Mercy and Hardening	<i>Romans 9:18-21</i>	Grace is always undeserved
8	Root of Assurance	<i>2 Tim. 2:19</i>	God's foundation stands firm
9	Predestination Fuels Mission	<i>Acts 18:9-10</i>	Go — God's elect are out there
10	Ends in Praise, Not Pride	<i>Eph. 1:6,12,14</i>	Sola Deo Gloria — glory to God alone

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***Soli Deo Gloria***  
 Glory to God Alone