

Predestination Explained

Predestination is the result of a sovereign choice of God for reasons known only to Himself, and involves the effectual choice of certain individuals for salvation and service.

It is part of the following order of salvation:

- **Predestination:** Involves foreknowledge and election. Has as its object our conformity to the likeness of Christ. [Rom. 8:29]
- **Vocation (or “Calling”):** “General call” goes out to all people through the testimony of the universe and our own consciences. [Ps. 19, Rom. 1] “Effectual call” goes to the elect and accomplishes its purpose. [John 6:37, 44, 65; 10:27]
- **Regeneration (or being “Born-again”):** An internal act, in which God gives us His Spirit. This is not God’s response to our faith, but rather a sovereign act of the Holy Spirit that makes repentance and faith possible. [John 3:3-8] The evidence of regeneration is repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Justification:** An external, legal act in which God credits my sin to Christ and Christ’s righteousness to me. Note the crucial difference between “imparting” and “imputing.” Justification involves God’s treating sinners “just as if” they had never sinned.
- **Sanctification:** A process of inward transformation, begun at regeneration, in which we “work out [our] salvation in fear and trembling, for it is God who works in [us] to will and to act according to his good purpose.” [Phi. 2:12,13]
- **Glorification:** The consummation of our salvation, when we are at last made like Christ, in His radiant resurrected splendor. [Mat. 13:43] Therefore, this does not take place at death, but rather at the resurrection. We shall all be glorified together. For this, this entire cosmos longs. [Rom. 8:18-25]