



Principles on the Body of Christ: The Divine Decree, Foreknowledge, the Predetermined Plan, and the Elect, Rom 8:28-30

8. Since the thoughts, decisions, and actions of the entire human race were known to God in eternity past, then He was able to determine who among the many would express faith in Christ for salvation.
9. This form of divine knowledge may be viewed as a printout and is called *foreknowledge*. All information retained in the computer is called *The Decree*:

Thieme, R. B., Jr. *The Integrity of God*. 2d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1998), 241:

The several contents of this one eternal purpose are, because of the limitations of our mentality and faculties, necessarily perceived by us in partial aspects in both logical and revealed relations. For this reason we often use the plural "decrees" to express the many facets of God's plan. In reality it is one *decree*.

The decree of God is His eternal and immutable will regarding the future existence of events which will happen in time and regarding the precise order and manner of their occurrence.

God's decree rendered all things as certain to occur. In doing so, He did not interfere with angelic or human free will. In fact, He decreed that we would have free will! In giving us volition, He also decreed that our decisions, whatever they might be, would certainly take place.

10. Foreknowledge is the term to describe God's knowledge of what is in the computer.
11. Thus a principle: nothing can be foreknown unless it is first decreed.
12. Each individual has his own document in this computer which contains data that chronicle each and every thought, decision, and action throughout his lifetime.
13. Foreknowledge is a category of divine knowledge that may be called a printout from the decree. It contains a list of all individuals in the computer who will express faith in Christ in time.
14. Those who express faith in Christ are called the *elect*. They are chosen by God to be a part of His perfect plan.
15. The perfect plan is *predetermined* by God in eternity past. This is also referred to in English translations as "predestination." This word is taken from the Latin words *prae*, "before," plus *destino*, "determine." Taken together they form the compound *praedestino*, "to appoint beforehand." The English definition means "to predetermine."
16. This term refers to the predetermined plan of God for those who believe in Him. Those who believe in Him are *foreknown* and those who are foreknown are the *elect* who become a part of the *predetermined plan*.
17. These terms are discussed by Paul in:

Romans 8:28 - We know in fact that to those who love God [**problem-solving device number 7: personal love for God], He [**God**] works all things together for good, to those who are the elect according to a predetermined plan.**



v. 29 - We know that whom He foreknew He also predetermined to become conformed ones to the image of His Son, that He might be the first born among many brethren.

Predetermination takes into consideration that you will believe in Christ in time and therefore God predesigned in eternity past a perfect plan for your life. This plan involves certain privileges that come to you at the moment of your salvation expressed by the term “conformed ones”:

σὺμμορφος, *summorphos* - “having the same form”

We take on the same form of Christ in two ways: (1) through the baptism of the Holy Spirit that places us into the Body of Christ. This makes us a member of His royal family, places us positionally in Him in heaven and retroactively in Him on the cross. Thus it was predetermined in eternity past that we would be members of the Body of Christ in time. (2) We will each be conformed to Christ by means of a resurrection body that will be just like His when the entire Body of Christ is taken up at the rapture of the Church.

Romans 8:30 - And whom He predetermined, He also elected, and whom He elected these same ones He also justified [**vindicated by the Supreme Court of Heaven in recognition of the imputation of divine righteousness at salvation**], and whom He justified He also glorified [**the blessings of the eternal state**].

18. The ones who are described by the theological terms in Romans 8:28-30 are called the Body of Christ.