

CSI: Controversial Subject Investigated:

Foreknowledge and Predestination

The Setting:	The Churches at Rome and Ephesus
The Evidence:	Romans 8:29-31; Ephesians 1:5, 11
The Characters:	Apostle Paul and Believers
The Controversy:	Are we pre-destined for salvation—or pre-destined because of salvation?

The history of controversy regarding the term *predestination* can be traced back to the days of Martin Luther's Reformation and most likely the personalities of John Calvin (the leader of Calvinism) and John Wesley (the leader of Arminianism). Many have blamed Calvin and Wesley for teaching doctrines that neither one taught or believed, and some modern men have floor-boarded their ideas.

Predestination is a reservation for a future destination. It applies to those who are *already* saved. "**For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate....**" **Predestined to what?** "**To be conformed to the image of His Son.**" **Why?** "**That he might be the firstborn among many brethren**" (Romans 8:29). When predestination is used in the Bible, it doesn't have to do with being **brought** into the family, but instead is used of those **within** the family.

Conformity comes *after* salvation. God doesn't expect a man to "clean himself up" to be saved. That's the work of the Holy Spirit in a man's heart as he grows in grace. Paul wrote, "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world...*" (Romans 12:1).

Foreknowledge is often misunderstood. It isn't an **action** of God; it's an **attribute**. God is omniscient, as well as omnipotent and omnipresent. "*The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, **The Lord knoweth them that are his.** And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity*" (2 Timothy 2:19).

Predestination broken down is **pre-destination**. Once we are saved, we are destined to Heaven. Because we aren't there yet, we are pre-destined. We have made our reservation, and God assures us that He will see us to our final destination. Just as a prediabetic isn't yet diabetic but has the indicative markers, someone predestined has the marks of salvation.

CONSIDER THIS ANALOGY:

California is a real destination.

In order to fly there, one must pay for a ticket.

If unable to pay on his own, someone else must pay.

Once the price has been paid, a reservation is made.

The traveler has not yet gone to California.

But his reservation is waiting. He is **pre-destined** to go there.

Heaven is a real destination.

To go there, we must pay the price.

Because we are unrighteous, we can't pay the price.

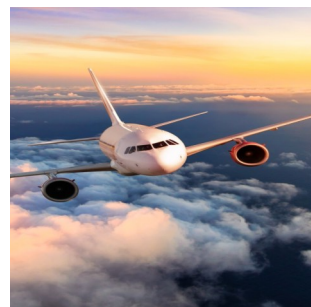
Jesus paid the price with His own righteousness.

Christians are waiting for their flight to Heaven.

Our reservation is sure. We are **pre-destined** to go there.

We have been predestinated unto the adoption of children.*
We have been accepted in the beloved.
We have obtained an inheritance.
We have been sealed with that holy Spirit of promise...
Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
(Ephesians 1)

*Our adoption is still ahead, awaiting the resurrection of our bodies (Romans 8:23), when we will receive glorified bodies like Christ's. Already redeemed by the blood of Jesus, we await the full realization of our inheritance.



Heaven is just ahead.
Reservations are required.
The price has been paid.



Our Heavenly Father has the controls, and He will insure that we arrive safely. It's been pre-determined.