

PREDESTINED

“... to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born of many brethren; and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things?” Romans 8

“... just as He chose us in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the intention of His will... also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ (by His redemption) should be to the praise of His glory”... “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 1 & 2

Predestined— appoint, determine, ordain— to limit in advance— predetermine (determine before)— predestinate (predetermine our destiny).

Yes, this has been a mystery. I have heard explanations given for what predestined means, yet without the understanding that Paul had and intended us to have. This mystery was revealed to him and he has shared this knowledge with us. First, I think we need to know who Paul was writing to. To the Romans, “... among whom you are the called of Jesus Christ, to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints.” To the Ephesians, “... to the saints who are at Ephesus, and who are faithful in Christ Jesus.”

We often make the mistake of not recognizing who the writers of the New Testament are addressing. Sometimes they are speaking to the religious, and at other times to believers, and then at times unbelievers (some of which can not or will not hear). In both instances Paul was speaking to saints, called of God (beforehand) and faithful in Christ Jesus. The disciples and apostles, as well, were chosen (beforehand).

I have had people, who serve God, tell me that He does not have favorites or those He favors. Can you not, with me immediately, name a dozen of those whom He has favored? Beginning in Old Testament times, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David and Solomon, and so on, including the major and minor prophets. Then there is Mary, “highly favored” and “mother of Jesus”, plus His followers, included in New Testament times. All of these and more “called of God” for His purpose, appointed to major and minor roles.

What then shall we say of these things? And what about a statement made by Jesus recorded in Matthew? “Some of those standing here will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

Oh, the sovereignty, the power and authority of God. How unsearchable are His judgments and decisions and how unfathomable and untraceable are His ways!