

12 Truths to Remember

When Contemplating Election and Predestination

1. Election and predestination according to the Father's mercy, grace and foreknowledge are in the Bible over and over again (1 Peter 1:1-2; Ephesians 1:3-14; Romans 8:28-30; to point out a few). To pretend these concepts aren't there or to ignore them is to disregard part of God's Word.
2. God is good. God is love. God is faithful. God is everything we want and more. We can trust Him.
3. God knows all things and has an infinitely bigger perspective and understanding than us. He has perfect knowledge of all the details, past, present and future, and before He even created the universe, He knew every person and knew those who would be His.
4. God is sovereign – He can do anything that is consistent with His character, and He doesn't need our permission or approval.
5. God desires that all people come to repentance and salvation (1 Timothy 2:4) and He takes no delight in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11).
6. God has gone and continues to go to the greatest lengths possible to make salvation available to all people and to continually offer it to them and call them to repentance and faith in Christ.
7. People have free will and can accept or reject God's offer of salvation. Have you met any non-believer yet who wants to give up their free will and be forced to accept Christ?
8. People are fully responsible for their choices and they freely make them. God doesn't force anyone to reject Him or make sinful choices.
9. God is just. Whatever consequences He gives to people who reject Him will be just and right. We can trust Him with this.
10. We are not in a position to judge God, nor do we have the capacity or the information we would need to do so. We are each created and sustained by Him daily and have a very small, cloudy window into eternity past and eternity future, and even into the brief history of the human race.
11. None of us deserve salvation and God's choice of us is according to His grace and mercy and has nothing to do with us being better or more worthy than other people (Ephesians 2:1-10).

12. You and I are called by God to vigorously share His good news of salvation from here to the ends of the earth (Matthew 28:18-20). Today is the day of salvation for anyone who will simply come to Him through repentance and faith in Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-13). We get to play a part in God's plan to rescue lost people and bring them home with us.

Finally, consider this well-expressed analysis from *The Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*:

Attempts to reconcile divine foreknowledge with human freedom and responsibility have occupied theologians and philosophers throughout church history. Some have argued that God's foreknowledge, whether construed as [just knowing the future] or [ordaining the future], entails the denial of human freedom. On such grounds some have denied that God knows the future, either because He has chosen not to know it, or, as the "open theists" have more recently argued, that He is unable to know it. [How unsettling that would be!] Others have tended to stress foreknowledge and foreordination to the near exclusion of human choice. *A better approach is to accept the biblical teaching that God foreknows and foreordains all things while not violating human free [will] and moral responsibility.* The biblical writers were not ashamed to place these truths together. In Acts 2:23 Peter proclaimed that the crucifixion of Jesus was according to God's foreknowledge and foreordained plan. Yet Peter held Christ's tormenters accountable for their actions, seeing that they acted on their own malicious desires.