

Confused: Difficult Verses In The Bible

Romans 8:28-30 – We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Ephesians 1:3-8 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us.

John 15:17 – Jesus said, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”

Predestined, Elected, Adopted and Chosen

Two views:

View #1: Before God created the world, He had already decided who would be saved. This view elevates the sovereignty of God to a level where man has no part in salvation.

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

View #2: Before God created the world, He had already decided how people would be saved. This view elevates God's desire for all people to be saved.

•God's plan of redemption was put in place before any person was created or sinned.

Romans 8:29-30 - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also **called**; those he **called**, he also **justified**; those he justified, he also **glorified**.

Called: God draws us to Himself

John 6:44 – Jesus said, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them.”

Justified: Forgives our sin

Glorified: We will be with Him in a new body

•The concept of adoption in the New Testament was very different from how we view adoption. In New Testament times, adoption involved an offer and a reception of the offer.

Ephesians 1:5 - In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

John 1:10-12 - He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

•The word “chosen” does not mean being chosen without any say in the matter. The word shows order in who initiates the relationship.

Bottom Line:

Predestination, election and adoption can be summed up this way: God did not predetermine who would be saved. God predetermined how people would be saved.