

Ephesians Series

Lesson #013

December 30, 2018

Dean Bible Ministries

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EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

The Foreknowledge of God
Ephesians 1:3–5

Praise for the blessings provided by the Father (Ephesians 1:3–6) is followed by the praise statement in vs. 6.

**Eph. 1:4, “just as He chose us in Him
before the foundation of the world, that we
should be holy and without blame before
Him in love,”**

He chose us *to be* in Him?

Or

**Before the foundation of the world, He
chose us *who are [or would be] in Him* that
we should be blameless ...**

1 Pet. 1:2, “elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:”

Rom. 8:29, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”



“In a word, Augustine is so wholly with me, that if I wished to write a confession of my faith, I could do so, with all fulness and satisfaction to myself, out of his writings.”

~Calvin, *A Treatise on the Eternal Predestination of God*

“That doctrine which is called ‘Calvinism’ did not spring from Calvin; ... Perhaps Calvin himself derived it mainly from the writings of Augustine.”

**~C. H. Spurgeon,
“Exposition of the
Doctrines of Grace”**



“The system of doctrine taught by Calvin is just the Augustinianism common to the whole body of the Reformers—for the Reformation was, as from the spiritual point of view a great revival of religion, so from the theological point of view a great revival of Augustinianism. And this Augustinianism is taught by him not as an independent discovery of his own, but fundamentally as he learned it from Luther,”
... ”

~Warfield, *Calvin and Calvinism*

“Augustinianism is presently called Calvinism or Reformed Theology.”

~R. C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*



The Remonstrants

Arminianism

- 1. Total depravity**
- 2. Conditional election**
- 3. Unlimited atonement**
- 4. Prevenient and resistible grace**
- 5. The possibility of losing salvation**

The Counter-Remonstrants

Five Points of Calvinism

- 1. Total inability**
- 2. Unconditional election**
- 3. Limited atonement**
- 4. Irresistible grace**
- 5. Perseverance of the saints**

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Hyper Calvinist is a Calvinist who believes that no one must evangelize, since God has chosen who will be saved, He will save them without our help.

High Calvinist is a Dordtian 5-point Calvinist

Moderate Calvinist is someone who is a 2-, 3-, or 4-point Calvinist

Key Words for Understanding Eph. 1:3–5

Choose

Predestined

His will

Foreknowledge

Key Words for Understanding Eph. 1:3–5

1. What is the meaning of “foreknowledge” (*proginosko*)?

2. Key verses:

Acts 26:5

1 Peter 1:20

2 Peter 3:17

Acts 2:23

1 Peter 1:2

Rom. 8:28–29

3. God’s Foreknowledge and Omniscience

1. The first word of significance which we find here is the verb “choose.”

**ἐκλέγομαι *eklegomai* to choose, select,
22×**

Adjective (verbal)

**ἐκλεκτός *eklektos* acc masc plur (verbal)
elect, chosen; choice, 22×**

**ἐκλογή (*eklogē*), picking out, election,
selection. Not used in the Old
Testament. 7× in the New Testament**

2. The second word of significance is the word translated predestination.

Rom. 8:29, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom. 8:30, “Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

3. The term “His will” brings to bear the issue of divine sovereignty vs. human free will.

Eph. 1:5, “having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,”

4. The key verse for the fourth term, “foreknowledge,” is found in 1 Pet. 1:2.

1 Pet. 1:2, “elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.”

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

Foreknowledge



Calvinist Claim (Berkhof)

“The word yada’ may simply mean ‘to know’ or ‘to take cognizance’ of someone or something, but may also be used in the more pregnant sense of ‘taking knowledge of one with loving care,’ or ‘making one the object of loving care or elective love.’ In this sense it serves the idea of election, Gen. 18:19; Amos 3:2; Hos. 13:5.

“The meaning of the words *proginoskein* and *prognosis* in the New Testament is not determined by their usage in the classics, but by the special meaning of *yada*’. They do not denote simple intellectual foresight or prescience, the mere taking knowledge of something beforehand, but rather a selective knowledge which regards one with favor and makes one an object of love, and thus approaches the idea of foreordination, Acts 2:23 (comp. 4:28); Rom. 8:29; 11:2; 1 Peter 1:2.”

~L. Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*

Calvinists base this meaning of elective love on 5 uses of the Hebrew *yada*' out of 944 uses. Gen. 18:19; Ex. 33:12; Amos 3:2; Hos. 13:5, Jer. 1:5

BAGD

① to know beforehand or in advance, have foreknowledge (of) τί something

② choose beforehand τινά someone Rom. 8:29.

Rom. 9–11; 1 Peter 1:20—Know from time past Acts 26:5

Liddell, Scott, Jones. *Greek English Lexicon*

- 1. —know, perceive, learn, or understand beforehand, prognosticate, foreknow, learn things in advance.**
- 2. judge beforehand [provides no lexical evidence].**

sees no meaning of *proginosko* that implies choice, election, loving relationship, or predestination.

Moulton, Milligan:

To “foreknow,” “know previously”; Notes that Hort thinks 1 Pet. 1:20 means to designate before.

NIDNTT: “The corresponding noun *prognōsis* (attested as a medical technical term since Hippocrates) denotes the foreknowledge which makes it possible to predict the future.”

Conclusion:

- 1. The Lexicons can provide no examples outside of the Bible where *proginosko* means anything other than prescience, to know something ahead of time or before hand.**

Acts 26:5, “They knew [about] me [knew beforehand] from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.”

Matt. 12:33, “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is **known by its fruit.”**

The character or something about the tree is known from its fruit.

No relationship, deterministic plan, or electing love is implied. Facts are the object of knowledge.