

THE RECIPE FOR GOD'S UNDEFEATABLE PURPOSE

Ingredient #1: His Foreknowledge

Romans 8:28-30

Introduction:

- God's undefeatable plan has to do with s_____
- 1. He will save people from e_____ walk of life
(Rom 5:9,10 – every tribe, tongue, nation, & class of people)
- 2. Since God has declared it in advance, He will make it
h_____ (Is 46:10,11)
- The ingredients of God's plan is found in Rom 8:28-30
- 1. Those who have the lifestyle of loving God are those who are
c_____ according to His purpose (v. 28)
 - a. "According to His purpose" describes those who are
called (like red might describe an apple)
 - b. Christians are "the according-to-His-purpose called ones"
(i.e. the divinely designed called ones)
- 2. Verses 29,30 give a further explanation of verse 28
- Today's lesson is on God's foreknowledge which when
understood will:
 - 1. Cause us to appreciate the s_____ that we have
 - 2. Motivate us to p_____ for the lost around us
and to share the gospel with them when there is opportunity.

The Meaning of God's Foreknowledge

- It DOES NOT mean to know in a _____
- 1. The word "know" is used very loosely in English
 - a. Although I know who the city Mayor is (know a fact)
 - b. I don't know the city Mayor (know p_____)
- 2. Many other languages have different words for different
k_____ of knowledge (including biblical Hebrew
and Greek)
- The background of the word foreknowledge has to do with the
meaning of the word, KNOW, in the Hebrew and Greek
- 1. Amos 3:2 - *you only have I chosen* (literally, "known") *of all
the families of the earth* (see KJV)
 - a. Certainly God knew who the families of the earth were
 - b. But He only personally knew the people of I_____

- c. The word “chosen” misses the point of the word – to know personally (God i_____ with Israel in a personal way)
2. Gen 4:1 – *Adam knew Eve, his wife, and she conceived*
 - a. The NIV translates that Adam made l_____ to Eve (the word takes on a sexual meaning only because of the c_____ - she conceived)
 - b. The word itself basically means to know personally (see also Lk 1:34, *I am a virgin*, or literally *I don’t know a man* – the context is conceiving the Christ child)
3. Matt 7:23 – Jesus will say to them, *I never knew you; depart from Me...* - He knew who they were but He did not know them p_____ (no relationship)
- Therefore the meaning of God foreknowing is that God decides to personally know a person or a group of people before He actually comes to know them personally.
 1. Does God foreknow every single person? N____, otherwise every one would get saved; but Matt 7:23 shows that many will not get saved.
 2. Many people don’t like to hear that God foreknows only some. If we reject God’s revelation of Himself and cling to our own thoughts are we not as guilty of making up our own God as they did in Ex 32:4?
- Word study of “foreknow” (verb) and foreknowledge (noun)
 1. Acts 26:5 – Paul appeals to Jews who “foreknew” him when he was a s_____ Pharisee (they personally knew him this way). 2 Pet 3:7 is used similarly as looking b_____ on what has already happened.
 2. God’s foreknowledge looks forward to what has yet to happen
 - a. 1Pet 1:20 – *He [i.e. Christ as the slain lamb], was foreknown before the foundation of the world.*
 - 1) Who foreknew Christ? _____
 - 2) When was Christ foreknown? Sometime before c_____
 - 3) Did the Father actually “know” Christ at the time of creation? _____, He personally knew Him as the W_____ (Jn 1:1) but did not know Him as the slain Christ until the cross (see Acts 2:23).

- b. Likewise God foreknows a person before actually knowing them (see Gal 4:9)

The Timing of God's Foreknowledge

- The answer to when God decides to “foreknow” is unanswerable unless God r_____ it.
 1. I Pet 1:1,2 states that believers were c_____ according to God's foreknowledge (i.e. according to a prior decision to enter into a personal relationship with us)
 2. Rom 11:2 – God will not r_____ His people whom He foreknew (i.e. the physical descendants of Abraham will be the last people group saved – see Rom 11:25,26)
 3. God has already foreknown all the people groups of the world (Rev 5:9,10) but will not save them without the g_____ (Rom 1:16; Matt 28:19)
- Some say that God has made all decisions in eternity past but this is not a biblical teaching. The Bible shows us that God has NOT made up His mind about everything.
 1. Ex 32:14 – God c_____ His mind about destroying all the idol worshippers.
 2. Ex 4:24 – God sought to kill Moses, but then left him alone after Moses' w_____ circumcised their son.
 3. Gen 6:5,6 – God was sorry that He had m_____ humans (He was not sorry when He made man - Gen 1:31 – but AFTER man multiplied and became evil)
 4. I Sam 15:11 – The Lord was sorry that He had made Saul k_____ (not when – see I Sam 10:24 – but AFTER when Saul stopped listening to God)
- Some say Eph 1:4 teaches that God decided in eternity past whom specifically He would save. But a closer look shows otherwise.

[God] chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.

 1. The Greek text emphasizes the words “in Christ”
 - a. TO BE “in Christ” means to be s_____ and so to be in a personal relationship with Him (2 Cor 5:17).
 - b. Eph 1:4 does not say that God chose us TO BE in Christ, but rather TO BE holy and blameless before Him.

- c. “In Christ” is the only realm in which a person can be considered holy and blameless
 - 1) Apart from Christ our righteousness is like a filthy r_____ (Is 64:6)
 - 2) Apart from Christ n_____ can be saved (Acts 4:12)
- 2. The Greek order cannot be kept in the English because it loses its clarity. The following reflects the Greek meaning.
 - a. Translation – *Before the foundation of the world, God chose us to be holy and blameless in Christ before Him.*
 - b. The sense – *Before the time of creation, God chose that people would be seen as holy and blameless before Him in the person of Christ.*
- God has revealed the time of His foreknowledge for a few individuals (Jer 1:5; Lk 1:15); otherwise we don’t know when God decides to foreknow a person.

Conclusion:

- This should motivate us to p_____ for the lost around us as Paul did for his fellow Jews (Rom 10:1)
- This should motivate us to s_____ the gospel with the lost around us, since it is the power of God for salvation (Rom 1:16).