

## **Election and other related Printouts:**

Under the printout of Election, the sovereign of God in eternity past elected all Church Age believers and placed them into His plan as royal priests with logistical support. This plan calls for the believer to receive highest and best from God. That highest and best is to receive the Escrow Blessings which he had deposited in eternity past. These blessings will not only glorify to the maximum the three members of the Trinity, but also bring great glory to the individual believer as well.

Now, that we have been elected, we must fulfill this election via the assets provided in Predestination. We have been predestined in Christ, the privilege to share in the destiny of Christ. The spiritual life provides us with the opportunity to maximize this destiny. Having executed this spiritual life fully that is having completed our destiny in time, we will receive our Escrow Blessings for both time and eternity.

Election, along with foreknowledge, predestination, justification and glorification, are all printouts from God's computer. As it were, the omniscience of God in eternity past made a folder for each person who would believe in the Lord Jesus Christ in time. Within that folder, he put the following files: foreknowledge, election, predestination, justification, and glorification.

Ephesians 1:3-5: Worthy of praise and glorification, the God even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who [the Father] has blessed [escrow blessings] us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ [the escrow officer], (4) just as He [the Father] has elected us for Himself in Him [Jesus Christ] before the creation of the world, that we may be set apart [positional and experiential sanctification] and blameless [ultimate sanctification] in the presence of Him [Father]. (5) By means of love, He has predestined us for the purpose of adoption [into the royal family of God] as adult sons [adult sons then heirs; if heirs then a destiny] to Himself

through [the person and work of] Jesus Christ according to the grace purpose of His will.

The action of an aorist participle precedes the action of the main verb. Thus, in this passage the Father's having blessed us occurs before the main verb of election. In other words, the deposit of escrow blessing occurred before God's election. Since a time-relationship has already been established between the depositing of escrow blessings and election, the aorist participle of predestination does not occur before the action of the main verb, rather it is simultaneous with the action of the main verb related to election. This is one of those exceptions to the Greek rule where the action of the aorist participle precedes the action of the main verb because of the structure of this paragraph. So, election and predestination are simultaneous printouts of the divine decree.

Romans 8:28. "We [the mature believers] know, in fact, that to those who love the God [the Father], he [God the Father] causes all things to work together for good [for divine good-production via the Ten Problem Solving Devices] to those who are called according to a predetermined plan [the divine decree]."

### **Printouts and Volitional Freedom within the Divine Decree:**

Romans 8:29-30: "[We know] that whom He foreknew [acknowledges what is certain in the Divine Decree; foreknowledge deals only with the actual, not the probable], He also predestined conformed ones to the image of His Son [via positional, experiential and ultimate sanctification], that He [the humanity of Christ] might be the first-born [as the head of the Church] among many brethren [Church age believers]. And whom He predestined, these same ones He also elected, and whom He elected, these same ones He also justified, and whom He justified, these same ones He also glorified."

Foreknowledge, predestination, election, justification, and glorification are words which only apply to the Church Age believer, never to the unbeliever. These verbs in verses 29 and 30 are all in the aorist tense, which means they occurred simultaneously in the mind of God in eternity past. To use the analogy of a computer we could say that these were all simultaneous printouts from the computer of the Divine Decree.

**Foreknowledge:** In order to understand foreknowledge, we must first understand the omniscience of God, and how it related to the Divine Decree. The omniscience of God knows all the knowable simultaneously about his creatures. God knows every thought, motivation, decision and action of every person in history. He knows not only the actual outcomes that occur in history, but also all the probable or possible outcomes.

God does not think sequentially since his knowledge is eternal and simultaneous. His knowledge is not limited by time, a concept which was created specifically for the human race. (Genesis 1:14) Thus, the omniscience of God has always known every person who would believe in Jesus Christ and every person who would not. So, trillions of years ago, it was as if God typed your name onto a computer file and next to your name he typed “Believed in Jesus Christ.”

Since the normal human mind thinks rationally, it may be helpful to see the rational order regarding these matters. Rationally, omniscience occurred first, then the divine decree declaring all those who believed in Christ, and finally the printout of all “whom he foreknew” to believe in Christ. In other words, foreknowledge deals with the believer’s actual motives, thoughts, decisions and actions which were acknowledge by God the Father and then sovereignly decreed. So, omniscience deals with both the actual and the probable whereas foreknowledge only deals with the actual.

**Predestination:** Predestination is part of God’s decree providing everything the Church age believer needs to execute His plan, purpose and will. For some he predestined that they would die the ‘sin unto death’

(1 John 5:16) since he knew that they would never fulfill his plan in time. For others he predestined that they would die with the greatest possible blessing and happiness since he knew that they would become mature believers.

Predestination coordinates with omniscience so that the free will of man is never violated. God never turns your yes into no and your no into yes. God's omniscience typed into the computer of divine decree the thoughts, motivations, decisions and acts of every Christian. Based on this information, God was able to design a predestined plan for each believer. For some it means great blessings in time and in eternity; for others it means great misery in time and loss of the greater blessings in the eternal state.

God predestined for all Christians to be 'conformed to the image of His son' through Positional, Experiential and Ultimate Sanctification. Through positional sanctification, we are 'conformed to His image' by being clothed with his characteristics (Galatians 3:27). Through experiential sanctification some Christians will choose to make use of God's provision for advancement in the spiritual life. These are the believers who follow God's plan and advance to spiritual maturity, in doing so becoming conformed to the characteristics that the humanity of Jesus Christ acquired through the spiritual life given to him. Through ultimate sanctification, all believers will be freed of their sin natures as they are given a resurrection body like that of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Justification:** Even though justification is a printout of the computer of the divine decree, it comes into effect for the individual when he makes a decision to believe in Jesus Christ. When this wonderful decision occurs, he is immediately given the righteousness of God. Once righteousness has been imputed, he is then justified: that is, declared perfectly righteous and qualified to live with God forever.

**Glorification:** Every Church age believer is glorified when he receives his resurrection body at the Rapture of the Church. Furthermore, the

mature believer is glorified when God provides for him the greater blessings both in time and eternity. When God made Paul the greatest man of doctrine in the Church age, not only was God glorified, but so was Paul. After his evaluation by the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul will be given the Crown of Glory, the Crown of Life and the Crown of Righteousness. When others see Paul wearing his crowns, they will recognize Paul as one of the greatest men of history. Paul will have many blessing and privileges that others will not have. This will be a part of Paul's glory. Paul used his volition to glorify God; God will in turn clothe Paul with great status, recognition and blessing.

### Conclusion:

Omniscience preceded the decree, whereas Election, Predestination, Foreknowledge, Justification, and Glorification are 'printouts' from the decree. Election is the sovereignty of God desiring the highest and the best for the believer. Election connotes entrance into the plan of God whereas Predestination is the sovereign provision of God, namely his plan for the believer. Foreknowledge acknowledges only what is in the decree about the believer, namely the believer's motives, thoughts, decisions and actions. God justifies the believer when he receives the imputation of divine righteousness at the point of salvation. Not only is God glorified when he can bless the believer with an eternal body and the greater rewards, but so is the believer.

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