

**Scriptures and Doctrine :: God & Time & Predestination advice please****God & Time & Predestination advice please - posted by strawrifle (), on: 2007/2/6 9:01**

Hi ive struggled for 25 years as a Christian,most of that time being back slidden..Due to this i'm pretty muddled! I seem to have a hard time nailing down facts,one second i'm believing it the next questioning..

The main problem i have is predestination..I can't handle the fact that God still create us,knowing who will not be saved..

My friend said this:God is outside of time and is the IAM..Hense what i did yesterday tomorrow or even next year God knows all at one time..That we think God see's things as a long list of events,but He is really Hit with all the information at once.. I don't think this is open theism,hes not saying God doesn't know the future, just that he knows it at exactly the same time as He knows the past..That scripture talks about knowing the future is God explaining infinite into finite..

what u think?

andy

sorry for my Grammar

Re: God & Time & Predestination advice please - posted by JennRich (), on: 2007/2/6 9:49

It takes God-given faith to receive the truth of predestination. But once you do, and you know you belong to Him, it gives incredible security.

Once when a man asked Jesus how he could be saved, Jesus replied that he had to be "born from above." We cannot "choose" our earthly family, can we (our blood family)? We had absolutely nothing to do with being born to our parents. This great illustration, seen over and over in life, is (I believe) given to us to show that God Himself has His own children, placed here on earth for a time, the wheat among the tares (read Mark 13:27).

As my pastor said last Sunday, "We must repent of our sins and believe on Him in order to receive salvation -- but even that is under the umbrella of God's sovereignty and design." (Here's a link if you want to download his sermon.) http://www.fbcms.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=154&Itemid=108

I was referring specifically to the Sunday, Feb. 4 sermon (p.m. service).

Romans 9:11 says "though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls".

I'm so glad that God is bigger than our brains -- we can never figure Him out. If we had a God that we could fully understand, we would be able to put Him in a box and He wouldn't be God at all.

Re: God & Time & Predestination advice please - posted by beenblake (), on: 2007/2/6 10:51

Hey Andy,

God has foreknowledge of our decisions, but at not time does God make those decisions for us. He has given us the freedom to love Him or not. We can choose to love God, or choose to not love God. Because God is greater than time, knowing all things, He knows our choice before we have made it. However, we choose to love God by our own choice.

I often think of God as the master chess player. A good chess player knows His opponents moves from the beginning of the game. A good chess player plans his entire strategy from the first move. Likewise, God who knows all things, planned all of His moves from the very beginning.

Scriptures and Doctrine :: God & Time & Predestination advice please

One of the things we must settle upon in this matter is God's love for us. It is God's Will that we live forever with Him in Heaven. This is what God wants for everyone. He does not want any person to die.

This is affirmed in the bible:

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

God's Will is eternal. This means from before time until after time, the desire of God's heart is the same. God has always and will always want us to be live with Him forever in love. However, love is not something that can be forced. Though God loves us, we must choose to love Him.

When a person decides they do not want to love God in return, this creates a huge problem. If we don't love God, we are defying His Will. We are rejecting God's love.

To defy God's Will is a most serious offense. God eternally wants us to share in love. However, when we reject that love, we are eternally rejecting God's love. This creates a huge problem. God loves us....we reject God. The end result is Hell.

It was God's desire and will to create every person for love. God never changes. God will never change His mind. For all eternity, God will always want us to exist for His love.

So, fully knowing that some people would reject God and these people would not be saved, God still created them. God wants them to be saved. He will always want them to be saved. These people are not saved because of their own choice. They reject God's salvation. They reject God's love. As a result, God gives them what they want. They do not want to be with God, so God sends them to a place where He is not. They go to Hell.

God did not predestine anyone for Hell. God predestined everyone for Heaven. However, God has also given us the freedom to choose. A person goes to Heaven or Hell because of their own choice. This is most significant. We must always remember this. We are held accountable.

I hope this helps,

May Jesus open your eyes to truth,

In love,
Blake

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/2/6 11:50

Quote:

-----The main problem i have is predestination..I can't handle the fact that God still create us, knowing who will not be saved..

It doesn't seem fair, but we must remember that this 'fairness' is out of our human mindset. The truth is, for God to be completely fair He would send us all to Hell because we have fallen short of the glory of God. It is a testimony to God's mercy and grace that He has chosen before the world began, certain people to be His special possession.

Quote:

-----My friend said this:God is outside of time and is the I AM..Hense what i did yesterday tomorrow or even next year God knows all at one time..That we think God see's things as a long list of events,but He is really Hit with all the information at once.. I don't think this is open theism,he s not saying God doesn't know the future, just that he knows it at exactly the same time as He knows the past..That scripture talks about knowing the future is God explaining infinite into finite..

God is eternal. That sentence is hard to understand completely. It is like trying to determine where the universe ends. Does the universe go on forever? If not, what is at the end of the universe? Is there a brick wall that says 'END'? If so, what is on the other side of the wall? Questions like these are beyond our comprehension. God is eternal. We know this to be true because that is what Scripture teaches.

God is:

Omnipotent - All powerful. This does not mean that God can do all things, but that He can do everything that is consistent with His nature. Isaiah 46:8-11, "Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it." An example of God not being able to do something is For example, God cannot lie. (Hebrews 6:18)

Omnipresent - God is Everywhere. God is at all places at all times. This is not to say that He is only partially present everywhere, but He is fully present at all places at all times. This is why David said in Psalm 139:7-12, "Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you."

Omniscience God is not only everywhere and all powerful, but He also knows all things. The above verses in Isaiah tell us that God declares the end from the beginning and even things not yet done.

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/2/6 13:39

bennblake,

I have read your post and I have some disagreements with it. Please know that I submit the following in humility and with the desire to have an edifying conversation. My disagreement is not with you personally but just with some of your writing. I pray that both of us (and others who are reading) would grow closer to Christ as a result of our discussion.

Quote:
-----God has foreknowledge of our decisions, but at not time does God make those decisions for us. He has given us the freedom to love Him or not. We can choose to love God, or choose to not love God. Because God is greater than time, knowing all things, He knows our choice before we have made it. However, we choose to love God by our own choice.

I agree that God does have foreknowledge of our decisions. I however must disagree with your assertion that God chooses based upon our choice. This is just not Biblical. It is simply a means to explain the many passages in scripture that speak about God choosing us and we being His chosen people. For example let's take 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15, "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."

Clearly, it is God who chooses and it is God who calls. But, some people don't like what this verse says and they simply try to 'explain it away' and make it say something it does not. Here is how some wish to reword these verses: "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."

Quote:
-----I often think of God as the master chess player. A good chess player knows His opponents moves from the beginning of the game. A good chess player plans his entire strategy from the first move. Likewise, God who knows all things, planned all of His moves from the very beginning.
g.

This is (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_knowledge) Molinism and it has been around since the 16th Century. I am not accusing you of being a Molinist, but your example of the chess player is very similar. It is popular today by those who wish to hold on to man's free will but maintain God's sovereignty. It is popular but not Biblical.

Quote:
-----One of the things we must settle upon in this matter is God's love for us. It is God's Will that we live forever with Him in Heaven. This is what God wants for everyone. He does not want any person to die.

This is affirmed in the bible:

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

In your understanding of 2 Peter 3:9, God will never come because He is always waiting for people to come to repentance on their own free will. This is a problem because people are constantly being born and coming into the age of accountability. God would be eternally being patient because He doesn't want anyone to perish. You must admit that God would have to be patient until a certain point. But what point would that be?
The proper context of 2 Peter 3:9 is that God is patient with the elect waiting for them to come to repentance. In this understanding, there will come a day when all of the elect will come to repentance and therefore God's patience will end.

Quote:
-----God's Will is eternal. This means from before time until after time, the desire of God's heart is the same. God has always and will always want us to be live with Him forever in love. However, love is not something that can be forced. Though God loves us, we must choose to love Him.

Does God this apply to those who are in hell? Does God still desire for them to be with Him?

Quote:
-----When a person decides they do not want to love God in return, this creates a huge problem. If we don't love God, we are defying His Will. We are rejecting God's love.

A person does not one day decide they do not want to love God. They naturally do not want to love God. Romans 6:7-8 , "For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

Quote:
-----To defy God's Will is a most serious offense. God eternally wants us to share in love. However, when we reject that love, we are eternally rejecting God's love. This creates a huge problem. God loves us....we reject God. The end result is Hell.

It was God's desire and will to create every person for love. God never changes. God will never change His mind. For all eternity, God will always want us to exist for His love.

Does this also apply to Pharaoh? Romans 9:14-18

"What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills."

Quote:
-----So, fully knowing that some people would reject God and these people would not be saved, God still created them. God wants them to be saved. He will always want them to be saved. These people are not saved because of their own choice. They reject God's salvation. They reject God's love. As a result, God gives them what they want. They do not want to be with God, so God sends them to a place where He is not. They go to Hell.

If God knows that a person will never become a Christian, why does He continue to bring conviction in the hopes that they would repent?

Quote:
-----God did not predestine anyone for Hell.

Agreed. God predestines some to be conformed into the image of His Son and the others He leaves alone in their natural state of being His enemy.

Quote:
-----God predestined everyone for Heaven.

This is unbiblical. Romans 8:29-30 says that all who are foreknown are predestined. All who are predestined are also called, and those whom He called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. If God predestined everyone for Heaven, then everyone would be in Heaven.

Quote:
-----However, God has also given us the freedom to choose. A person goes to Heaven or Hell because of their own choice. This is most significant. We must always remember this. We are held accountable.

We do have the right to choose. However, we only choose to disobey God until we are regenerated. It is after regeneration that we even have the capacity to obey God and choose Christ. We are held accountable because of our actions and all unrighteousness will be punished.

Re: - posted by strawrifle (), on: 2007/2/6 14:11

Hi all you guys are a lot more intellectual than me so my posts are going to be simple..

to me if God knows what I'm going to do, I can't see how I won't do it?? with that said I have read posts on that before..I don't want to bore people..

I was more interested in the theory that God knows all things at once, is that heresy like open theism? It makes sense to me and makes me happier with God..LOL I know big of me

andy

ps I will check the sermon out thks

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/2/6 14:22

Here is a good read for you about Open Theism.

http://wwwFOUNDERS.org/FJ46/article2_fr.html

Re: - posted by strawrifle (), on: 2007/2/6 14:26

Hi Jay i see nothing in ur post that would go against what my friend said..

i.e Omnipotent Omnipresent Omniscience

He can still be all these with his example..He would be IAM

andy

Re: - posted by strawrifle (), on: 2007/2/6 14:28

Jay i don't think my friends idea was open theism hes not saying God doesn't know the future..Thks for the link though : -)

edited maybe i should read the link and see what they do believe :-?

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/2/6 14:31

I do not think your friend is talking about Open Theism.

Re: - posted by beenblake (), on: 2007/2/6 14:49

Dear Jaysaved,

How can you say that God did not predestine anyone for Hell, but He also did not predestine everyone for Heaven?

Was it God's plan to send people to Heaven or Hell?

Do we have the freedom to choose God or not? You cannot say that God chose the elect, but did not choose the non-elect. That is non-sense.

Do we have a choice or not?

Blake

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/2/6 14:55

It all comes down to the depravity of man.

Because of Adam's transgression, all men are born spiritually dead. This cannot be blamed on God. It is God's sovereign will to choose certain people to be regenerated. His predestination is to conform certain people to the image of His Son. The others are simply left in their original state.

It is God's plan to make Jesus the firstborn among many brethren.

Re: God & Time & Predestination advice please, on: 2007/2/6 15:31

Quote:

strawrifle wrote:
Hi ive struggled for 25 years as a Christian,most of that time being back slidden..Due to this i'm pretty muddled! I seem to have a hard time nailing down facts,one second i'm believing it the next questioning..

The main problem i have is predestination..I can't handle the fact that God still create us,knowing who will not be saved..

My friend said this:God is outside of time and is the IAM..Hense what i did yesterday tomorrow or even next year God knows all at one time..That we think God see's things as a long list of events,but He is really Hit with all the information at once.. I don't think this is open theism,hes not saying God doesn't know the future, just that he knows it at exactly the same time as He knows the past..That scripture talks about knowing the future is God explaining infinite into finite..

what u think?

andy

I wrestled with the concept of predestination vs free will for years. Eventually came to the conclusion that BOTH are true.

God is so much greater than us, it makes sense if some of the things in the Bible *don't* make sense, or seem paradoxical. His answer is often "All of the above", and more that our minds can't grasp!

The thing is not to worry about it too much, but seek the Lord for what He wants you to understand at this present time.

When I first came to Christ I was a student, and the Christian Union was 99% "Calvinist Reformed". This was probably in the Lord's mercy because I was so insecure that I needed the reassurance of the "once saved always saved" concept. I was terrified of displeasing the Lord in some way and losing my salvation!

Later on, when more established in faith and with a bit more knowledge of the Bible, I began to be able to face the possibility that someone who was genuinely born again could turn his back on God so completely that he would forfeit his salvation. It seems that King Saul did, for example, and probably some of the false teachers in Paul's day.

You can find scripture to justify both views. Which is why I eventually came to the conclusion that predestination and free will are BOTH true!

I do believe that it is GOD who keeps us once we are "saved". I also believe that anyone would have to "work very hard" indeed and be very determined and consistently wilfully disobedient to forfeit that salvation. You say that you were backslidden, so you will appreciate that :-)

You also said:

Quote:
-----My friend said this:God is outside of time and is the IAM..Hense what i did yesterday tomorrow or even next year God knows all at one time..That we think God see's things as a long list of events,but He is really Hit with all the information at once.. I don't think this is open theism,hes not saying God doesn't know the future, just that he knows it at exactly the same time as He knows the past

I'm not sure what you mean by "open theism", others seem to have answered that anyway, but the concept of God being able to take in everything that happens all at the same time doesn't seem strange to me.

Even we humans can do that, with some things, to a limited extent. For example, we find it impossible to take in all of a book at once, but have to read one word at a time; but we CAN take in all of a picture, or a scent or a sound, such as an orchestra playing. We don't concentrate on one particular instrument and analyse the sound note by note, but take in the whole effect of all the instruments at once.

God can do something like that but infinitely more so. And presumably He invented time so is not subject to it as we are!

Hope that helps...

Blessings

jeannette

Re: - posted by strawrifle (), on: 2007/2/6 15:52

Hi thks Jennette it doesn't seem strange to me neither.
Maybe its best to leave the word predestination of a thread title ;-)

To me His argument is very provoking it changes everything i struggle with..i couldnt shake the idea that i was just hard wired to do what God has seen..

andy

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2007/2/7 0:25

brethren

we have discussed this some time back on this same section of the forum. one could do a search on Predestination and Free Will and i'm sure it will pop up.

i found that we have free will but it is wrapt up in God's own sovereign will somehow. indeed the word does tell us to choose but also the word tells us that from before the setting of the foundations of th earth, we were chosen. we know also from John 6:65 that no man may come to the Son except the Father draw him...some may see this as a paradox or somehow mutually exclusive but there is no such thing in God's mind. The 2 work together for His own purposes for creation outlined in Ephesians 3.

our salvation is predestined, hence the term "elect" is used ot describe the Church. i know of no elected official who ever put himself in office without being chosen. the same holds true for our election in God. however when we realize this, we must then participate with His plan. i find that this knowledge rather than causing me to become complacent, causes me to seek God all the more.

as surely as some are predestined for heaven, some are predestined for hell. for God forknowledge is not simply knowin g the future, it is in fact to make is so. God doesn't react to what we decide to do or make contingency plans, all things are carried out in accordance to what He has planned and ordained from before the setting of the foundations of the earth. Brethren we must realize that the final beneficiary of all creation is God. Men ending up in heaven or hell is no big deal, the issue as far as God is concerned is the showing of His manifold wisdom through the Church. Once we get our eyes off ourselves and see this and know it and live by it, we won't be disturbed at the fact that some are predestined for hell and others not. it doesn't bother me nor does it make God cruel in my eyes. As maker of all things He can do as He please s and who are we to complain? what could we say to complain?

Re: - posted by strawrifle (), on: 2007/2/7 23:39

Hi Ironman sorry if its been discussed before..I regretted mentioning predestination in the title,i was more interested in what people felt about my friends idea..But i got some great replies here and on another thread..

I was rather blessed when someone posted "Regarding God and time, I have found it very helpful to my prayer life, to know that I am interfacing with the I AM,that in eternity, it is always now"..

Apologies for posting whats been covered before..

God Bless
andy

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2007/2/8 12:02

bro Andy

i wrote back about that other thread so that if you felt led to dig it up you could do so and glean from it whatever God has for you. you may find some good things there. for me it cleared everything up. no need to apologize bro!

God bless