

PREDESTINATION: WHAT THE BIBLE ACTUALLY SAYS

THE DEFINITIVE STATEMENT OF REFORMED THEOLOGY

*By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory,
some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life;
and others foreordained to everlasting death.
(Westminster Confession, Chap III, ¶ III)*

*These angels and men... are particularly and unchangeably
designed, and their number so certain and definite, that it
cannot be either increased or diminished.
(Westminster Confession, Chap III, ¶ IV)*

In Calvinism, predestination strictly determines the eternal destination of the soul (Heaven or Hell).

Stripping Away the Theological Baggage

Source: Webster's 1828 Dictionary

(verb transitive)

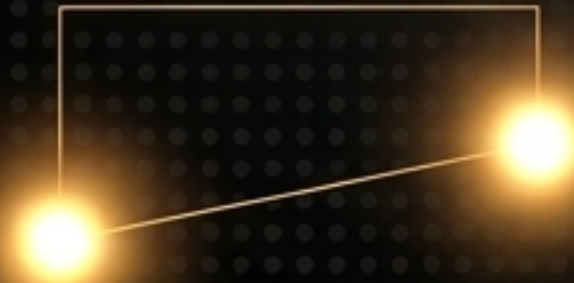
PREDESTINATE

To predetermine or foreordain; to **appoint or ordain beforehand** by an unchangeable purpose.

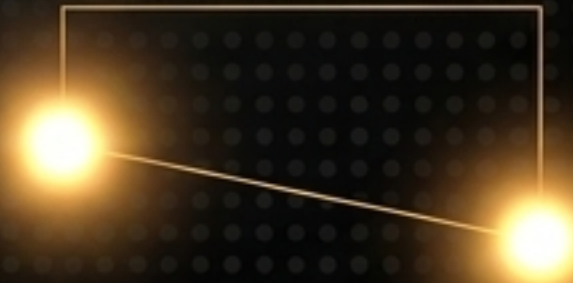
Notice what is **missing**. The word itself does not require the meaning of heaven, hell, or salvation. It simply means to appoint beforehand.

The Surprisingly Small Scriptural Footprint

Cluster 1: Romans 8
Verses 29 & 30



Cluster 2: Ephesians 1
Verses 5 & 11



For all the attention given to the doctrine of predestination regarding salvation, the term appears in only four verses in the entire Bible. There is no verse in the Bible that refers to predestination unto salvation.

Predestinated Unto What?

“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself...”

(Ephesians 1:5 KJV)

PREDESTINATION

According to the good
pleasure of his will



ADOPTION

By Jesus Christ
to himself



? WHAT IS
SCRIPTURAL
ADOPTION ?

In its most common usage, adoption legally declares an unrelated person to be a child. But what is the exact scriptural definition?

Decoding Adoption in Romans 8:23

“And not only they, but ourselves also... waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

(Romans 8:23 KJV)

THE PAST

PRESENT

THE FUTURE

Salvation /
Spiritual Justification

Believers groan
within ourselves

The redemption
of our body

Scriptural Adoption \neq Salvation

Scriptural Adoption $=$ The Future Redemption of the Physical Body

THE IMAGE OF THE EARTHLY

1 Cor 15:47

Flesh, blood, and corruption. The body we possess now.

THE IMAGE OF THE HEAVENLY

1 Cor 15:49

The incorruptible body we will possess in the future.

Romans 8:29 states we are predestinated to be conformed to the image of his Son. We do not bear this heavenly image at the moment of salvation. It is a future physical conformation.

The Moment of Transformation

*In a moment, in the
twinkling of an eye,
at the last trump...
(1 Cor 15:52)*

Flesh and blood cannot inherit
the kingdom of God; neither
doth corruption inherit
incorruption. (1 Cor 15:50)

*...the dead shall be
raised incorruptible, and
we shall be changed.*

Every single verse about
predestination in the Bible
points exclusively to this exact
moment: The Rapture.

The Motive: Why Predestinate the Adoption?

Pillar 1: To Escape Wrath

God chose to remove believers from the earth prior to the 70th week. *For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.*
(1 Thess 5:9)

Pillar 2: To Prevent Corruption

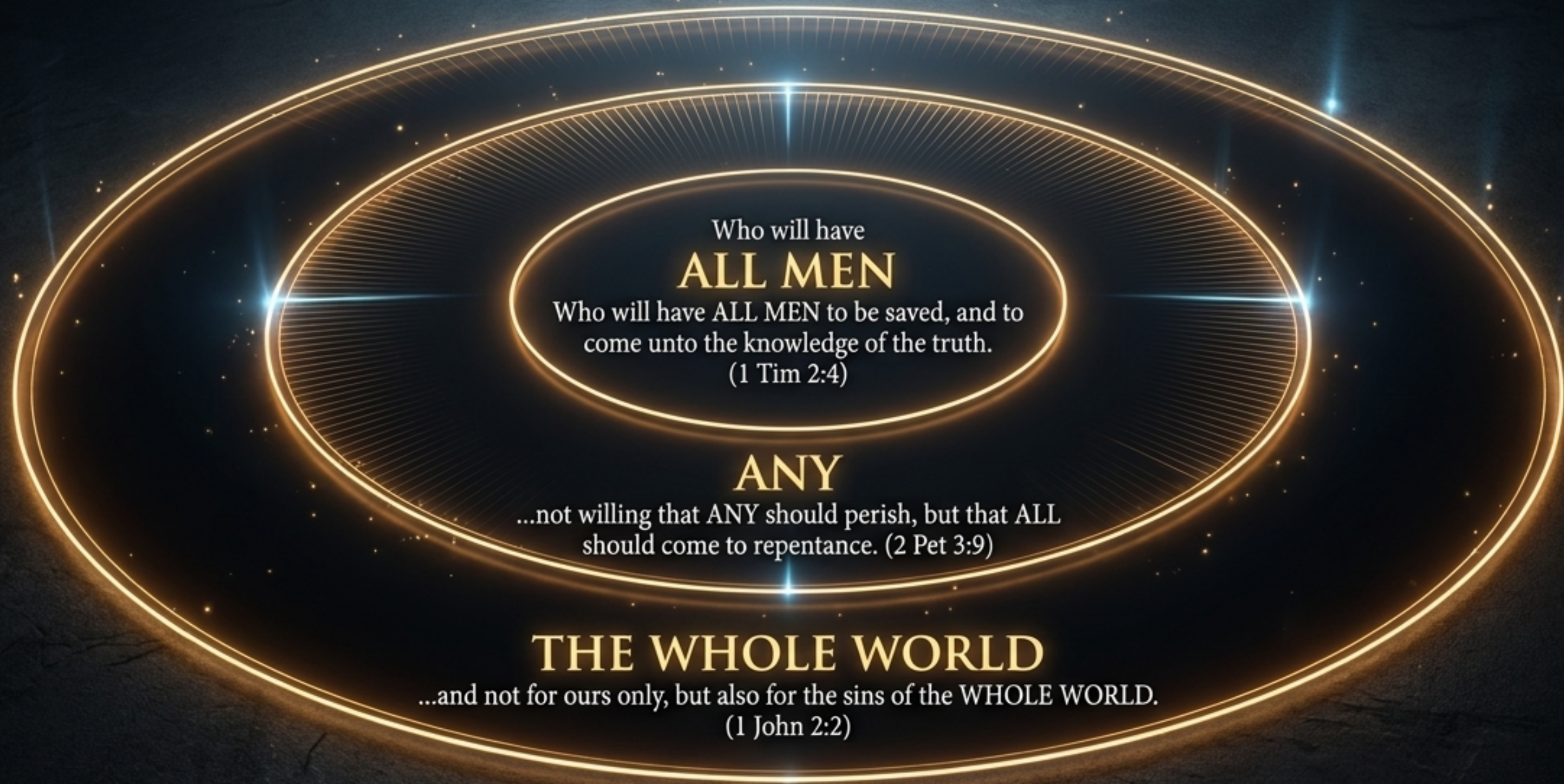
Believers must receive a new body to avoid bringing corruption into a perfect environment. *For this corruptible must put on incorruption...*
(1 Cor 15:53)

God does not predestine the tragic events of a believer's life. He strictly predestined the physical rescue and transformation of the believer's body.

Diagnostic Matrix: Tradition vs. Truth

| | Westminster Confession | Biblical Text |
|------------|--|--|
| The Target | The eternal destination of the human soul. | The physical transformation of the believer's body. |
| The Timing | An unchangeable past decree regarding salvation. | A future event (The Rapture / Adoption). |
| The Result | Pre-selected individuals are locked into Heaven or Hell. | The entire Body of Christ receives an incorruptible body to enter the new heavens. |

A Slander Against the Character of God



The idea that God predestinates certain men to be saved but not others directly contradicts His explicitly stated desire for humanity.

The Unbroken Thread of Human Choice

Leviticus 22:18

The institution of freewill offerings unto the LORD.

Deuteronomy 30:19

The explicit command: I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life.

Numbers 15:3 / Ezra 3:5

Repeated historical documentation of individuals willingly offering out of their own volition.

Acts 16:30-31

Sirs, what must I do to be saved? ... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

A doctrine denying free will requires ignoring a multitude of foundational verses across both testaments.

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come.

AND WHOSOEVER WILL,
let him take the water of life freely.

(Revelation 22:17 KJV)

Whosoever will is structurally incompatible with a doctrine of unchangeable, pre-selected individuals.

The Cruelty of a False Doctrine

The Metaphor

Telling a man who possesses no free will that he must choose to believe is the exact equivalent of commanding a paralyzed man to stand up and walk.

The Reality

It is not an invitation; it is a mockery of a damned man who has absolutely no physical or spiritual ability to change his circumstance.

The Conclusion

God does not mock humanity. He equips them with the free will to respond to His gospel.

The Harmonic Truth of Scripture

The Character of God

God deeply desires that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. He predestinates no one to Hell.

The Destiny of the Body

For those who freely choose to believe, God has predestinated their future: the Adoption. The Body of Christ is guaranteed a flawless, incorruptible physical body at the Rapture to dwell with Him eternally.

The Agency of Man

Every individual possesses the free will to hear the gospel and choose whether to believe it.