

## **The Biblical Predestination and House Church**

### **Ephesians 1:3-14**

#### Introduction

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. **Ephesians 1:3-14**

- Three Truths of Predestination

**1. Origin** of Predestination (1:4-6) : When or why?

**4** For he **chose** us in him **before the creation of the world** to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love **5** he **predestined** us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, **in accordance with his pleasure and will**.

Pleasure: *eudokia* (εὐδοκία = *eu+dokia*). Good pleasure or Good-will.

**11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. **12** Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— **13** *children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God*. John 1:11-13.

**19** God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

Numbers 23:19

**#1 Biblical predestination means the most assuring \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

**20** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, **21** *to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen*.

Ephesians 3:20-21

**33** Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! **34** "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" **35** "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" **36** **For** from him and through him and to him are all things. *To him be the glory forever! Amen*. Romans 11:33-36

**2. Operation** of Predestination (1:7, 8): How?

**3** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **4** For he chose us **in him** before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. **In love 5** he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— **6** to the praise of his glorious grace,

which he has freely given us **in the One** he loves. 7 **In him** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed **in Christ**, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. 11 **In him** we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope **in Christ**, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked **in him** with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:3-14

“God wants all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.” 1  
Timothy 2:4

**#2 Biblical predestination is not \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_.**

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“Repent . . . he may send the Christ, who has been **appointed** for you.” Acts 3:20.

3. **Outcome** of Predestination (1:9-23, 3:3, 4, 9-11, 20-21): For What?

9 he made known to us the **mystery** of his will according to his **good pleasure** (*eudokia*), which he purposed in Christ. Ephesians 1:9

Mystery (μυστήριον), Knowledge (γνῶσις).

**3** that is, the **mystery** made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. **4** In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, **5** which was **not made known to people in other generations** as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. **6** This **mystery** is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of **one body**, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 3:3-5.

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for **you are all one in Christ Jesus**. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:26-29.

Catholic= καθολικός (kata+holon = according to whole), universal.

**#3 Biblical election is \_\_\_\_\_**

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 12:2-3

Conclusion: **House Church is God's ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ of all humanity.**