

181216-1 Bible Study, The Foreknowledge of God – Craig Thurman

D. J. Ward said, *The foreknown are the sure-known*. God knows all things. When we speak of God knowing all things we refer to His attribute of omniscience. Generally, we mean by that that He knows all things that are. But more than this the Bible teaches that He knows all things *before* they are. This is His foreknowledge. It can't be that God doesn't all things that are because He knows all things before they are.

Ac 15:18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

In 1Pe.1.20, Jesus Christ was foreknown of God *before the foundation of the world* as the perfect Lamb that would shed His blood to redeem some from sin.

*1Pe 1: 18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;
19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:
20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,
21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.*

The very sufferings that Jesus Christ would endure, even unto death were by the foreknowledge of God,

*Acts 2.22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:
23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain ...*

Since God knew before, that is in eternity, that Jesus Christ would come (frankly because He would send Him who is the second Person of the Trinity, Jo.3.16) then He must have know who His Son would die for in time. Is it possible that God did not know this. I don't ask whether God was aware of all things that are. I ask whether God could not know before those that His only begotten Son would die for? Is that remotely possible? If you believe the word of God, you must conclude that God sent His Son to die for a particular people. He must have known all for whom Jesus would redeem through His sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection. It isn't possible that God did not know those for whom Christ died. By the word of God, I am not offering to you my opinion. I will state what is written in the word of God. Those for whom he died He foreknew, He also predestinated, called, justified, and glorified.

*Ro.8.28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
29 ¶ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.
30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.
31 ¶ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

- 32 *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*
- 33 *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*
- 34 *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*
- 35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*
- 36 *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*
- 37 *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*
- 38 *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*
- 39 *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Those that God foreknew are as good as glorified in His sight. In the scope of eternity, time is only a microscopic sphere of operation in the whole scheme of things. Time is nothing to God. To us it is a drop in a bucket in the experience of the people of God. The word of God says,

1Pe 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Those whom God elected were elected because He foreknew them. What is foreknowledge but a forecasting of His love upon some because He was pleased to.

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world (assumes foreknowledge), that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

The knowledge which God has taken of some has absolutely nothing to do with anything that we did good or bad, but of His grace.

Ro.9.10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac;
11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)
12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.
13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.
14 ¶ What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.
15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.
16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

1Pe.1.3 ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love ...

Ro 11:7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it (Obtained what? The righteousness of God through Jesus Christ, because of the grace of God.), and the rest were blinded ...

Many men raise objections against the great truths of God. Christians should learn to gaze upon the word of God with faith and fear. We should receive every word of God as it is written, and trust Him with the things that we do not understand. The word of God is not written to create confusion. Rather it is written to bring peace to the hearts of His people. The doctrine of foreknowledge is one of many important doctrines which we receive because we have the faith of Christ. *He.11.3 Through faith we understand ...* There is no better way for the elect of God to show the reality of their faith in Christ than by receiving His doctrine.

1Jo 4:6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.