

# DISCOVERING YOUR DESTINY

## Part 2: Free Willy

### Introduction – Busting Our Biases

Acts 2:47 – KJV; Matthew 10:29 - NIV

### Choices, Choices!

- OPTION #1 – CALVINISM...

God knows everything, including the future as \_\_\_\_\_. He knows the future exhaustively because he is in control of all things and predestines everything that happens, including \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Exodus 4:11; Deuteronomy 29:4; 2 Samuel 2:6-8; Psalm 115:3; 139:4, 16; Proverbs 21:1; 16:4, 33; Isaiah 14:24; 45:7; 46:10-11; 63:17; Jeremiah 1:5; Daniel 4:35; Amos 3:6; Matthew 11:27; 22:14; John 1:12-13; 6:44-45, 65-66; 12:39-40; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28; 13:48; Romans 8:28-29; 9:8-16; Galatians 1:15; Ephesians 1:4-6; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 2:25; James 4:13-16; 1 Peter 2:8; 4:19; Jude 1:4;

- OPTION #2 – ARMINIANISM...

God knows everything, including the future as \_\_\_\_\_. But this does not mean that he usurps the \_\_\_\_\_ he has given us. Knowledge of the future does not necessitate that God \_\_\_\_\_ the future. Our free will is no illusion and God desires to \_\_\_\_\_ with us to create our futures together, even though he may already know the eventual outcome.

Deuteronomy 5:29; 1 Kings 22:28-35; Ecclesiastes 3:15; Ezekiel 18:23; Matthew 23:37; John 12:32; 16:8; Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 12:11; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Ephesians 1:13; Philippians 2:12-13; 3:12-14; Hebrews 3:6, 14; 1 Timothy 2:4; 4:10; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Peter 1:10; 3:9; 1 John 2:2;

- OPTION #3 – OPEN THEISM...

God knows everything that \_\_\_\_\_. The future does not exist as a settled certainty yet; therefore God does not know it as such. He does, however, know the future's infinite \_\_\_\_\_, so he is always prepared and always has a plan. In partnership with humanity he chooses for us to create our futures together.

Genesis 6:5-6; 1 Samuel 15:10, 35; Jeremiah 3:6-7; Isaiah 37:26; 46:10; Matthew 25:41; Luke 7:29-30; John 6:64

### Descending Into Romans 9

THOUGHTS TO REMEMBER...

- New Testament “choice” language is an intentional reframing of the Old Testament concept of a \_\_\_\_\_ people to help Christians (Jews especially) expand their understanding of “who’s in”.
- God’s New Covenant “Chosen People” are together \_\_\_\_\_ to salvation in the sense of sanctification and glorification, not justification. (Romans 8:29)
- God hardens hearts in \_\_\_\_\_ with people’s free choice. Exodus 8:32; 9:34; 10:1; Romans 1:24, 26; 1 Timothy 4:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12
- **Jeremiah 18** (a free will, partnership passage) is the base for **Romans 9**.
- Paul’s theme is the \_\_\_\_\_ nature of grace, apart from the law (religious works).
- Paul draws his own conclusion in **verses 30-32**: *Our future is determined by our \_\_\_\_\_, not our \_\_\_\_\_!*

## Conclusion – It's Time For A Work Out

Philippians 2:12-13; 3:12-14

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### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

#### WARMING UP...

1. After reviewing this week's teaching, share what one thing most inspired, perplexed, or challenged you.
2. How would you respond to someone who said "The basic message of **Romans 9** and other passages like it is *I am the Potter, you are the clay. I do what I want, so get out of my way*?"

#### LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Discuss how **Romans 8:29** could (and perhaps should) be considered a support text for the Arminian position more than traditional Calvinism. How does **Ephesians 2:10** support this?
3. Compare the accounts of Moses and Hezekiah as both of them prayed to God to spare their life longer than originally prophesied in **Deuteronomy 3:23-27** & **2 Kings 20:1-6**. What do we learn about God as the ultimate free choice being in the universe? What lessons can we draw from these two accounts regarding the power of prayer?
4. How do **Genesis 6:5-6** & **Matthew 25:41** partner to suggest that God never intended to create people for hell? How does this inform our understanding of **Romans 9:21-22**?

#### SO WHAT?...

5. Read **Deuteronomy 30:19**. Take 2-3 minutes to quietly let God point out to you those area(s) of your life in which you tend to make *choices* that lead toward death rather than life for you and perhaps others around you. Share your struggles if you like. *Pray* for each other in your areas of challenge.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY...

### BOOKS ON FREE CHOICE

- *Life in the Son* – by Robert Shank
- *Elect in the Son* – by Robert Shank
- *The Grace of God and the Will of Man* – by Clark H. Pinnock
- *Chosen But Free* – by Norman L. Geisler
- *The Potter's Freedom* – by James R. White
- *No Place For Sovereignty* – by R. K. McGregor Wright
- *Predestination & Freewill: Four Views* – Edited by David & Randall Basinger

### BOOKS ADDRESSING OPEN THEISM

- *The Openness of God* – by Clark H. Pinnock
- *The Most Moved Mover* – by Clark H. Pinnock
- *God of the Possible* – by Gregory A. Boyd
- *The Myth of the Blueprint* – by Gregory A. Boyd
- *Satan and the Problem of Evil* – by Gregory A. Boyd
- *The God Who Risks* – by John Sanders
- *The Case For Freewill Theism* – by David Basinger
- *God & Time: Four Views* – by Gregory E. Ganssle

### BOOKS AGAINST OPEN THEISM

- *God's Lesser Glory* – by Bruce A. Ware
- *Bound Only Once* – by Douglas Wilson
- *The Battle For God* – by Norman L. Geisler
- *Creating God In The Image Of Man* – by Norman L. Geisler

### WEB SITES

- The Calvinist Corner – [www.mslick.com](http://www.mslick.com)
- Another Calvinist Site – [www.freewill.doesntexist.com](http://www.freewill.doesntexist.com)
- Arminianism Overview – [www.zenos.org/classes/principles/cpu1w6.htm](http://www.zenos.org/classes/principles/cpu1w6.htm)
- Another Arminianism Overview – [www.mb-soft.com/believe/xc/arminian.htm](http://www.mb-soft.com/believe/xc/arminian.htm)
- Open Theism Site – [www.opentheism.org](http://www.opentheism.org)