

Does the bible teach that individuals are predestinated to everlasting damnation? No! The bible is clear on who (not what) is predestinated and what the “who” are predestinated to. Some people look at the doctrine of predestination as to state: “if God predestinated people to immortal glory then He must have predestinated people to everlasting fire” which is called “Double Predestination.” I do *not* believe that Double predestination is a scriptural doctrine, Double predestination fails on two basic points: Man’s natural condition before God and God’s holiness.

Scripture states that man is a sinner by representation (Rom 5:12), by conception (Eph 2:1, Ps 51:5) and by manifestation (Rom 3:11-18). Therefore, man is not in a neutral state but he is in a condemned state from conception, ready to be judged for his sins unless he is saved by the grace of God: that is why scripture defines man as children of wrath (Eph 2:3). This state of man was not my choice, not your choice, not God’s choice, but Adam’s. It is our willful choice to sin, but to put us in the state of sin and death came by one man: Adam. Since man is in this state, the justice of God declares that he must pay His sin debt. A sinner’s works fits or makes them deserving to suffer the wrath of God. In reading Romans 9:22 & 23 side by side we can see that God is active on behalf of vessels of mercy and **not** active making them vessels of wrath.

Non-Elect

22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath **fitted** to destruction:

Elect

23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which **he had afore prepared** unto glory,

In these previous verses, scripture states that God was active in preparing a people for glory (Rom 8:28-30, Eph 1:4-10). However notice about the vessels of wrath, the pronoun “he” **is not** in the text, this denotes that God was/is not active in “fitting” them for destruction but the sins of men fit themselves for destruction without any influence from the hand of God. God didn’t predestinate sin nor did He predestinate people for eternal damnation. God’s Holiness is pure and He cannot sin nor be the cause of sin. He was/is active in preparing the vessels of mercy unto glory and this is proven again in Matt 25:32.

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth **his** sheep from **the** goats:

From verse 32 notice “His” sheep and “the” goats, the scripture never portray God’s authorship or affiliation with the sin of mankind even in referencing them. This is another proof that God didn’t predestinate people to eternal damnation. There is still more scriptural evidence in Matt 25: 34 & 41.

Elect

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom **prepared for you** from the foundation of the world:

Non - Elect

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, **prepared for the devil and his angels:**

Predestination is God's activity in preparing vessels unto glory. Since man is in a condemned natural state of wrath then God must be active in conforming him to the image of His son. Predestination was on behalf of God's elect, and the elect were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. However God did NOT prepare the everlasting fire for human beings but for the devil and his angels. Man is worthy of this eternal separation (death) from God because all are sinners.

Predestination is a bible doctrine and if one desires to ignore it or explain it away, that is their right. However, predestination and election are taught in the scriptures. Once a person has established that predestination is a bible doctrine, then with systematic study of the bible along with the bible's context they can learn the boundaries of this biblical teaching. The boundaries of predestination are defined as the necessary activity of God on behalf of His elect (those that he has forever loved) to conform them to the image of His Son. Outside of those boundaries you will indeed fall in to heresy such as: predestination of all things that come to pass (absolutism), predestination of sinners to hell (double predestination), or God predestinating men to perform specific religious duties in order to be saved from hell.

The biblical doctrine of predestination abases man and exalts Jesus Christ because it strips man's right to glory in his own redemption and it never puts the spotlight on the sinner but the Savior. We must look at the nature of God and His holiness, man's worthiness of deserving the wrath of God, and scriptures that divide what God does and what He does not do. and To remain consistent with the assumption that God predestinated people to everlasting damnation then God would have to be active in preparing them for wrath and their place of eternal torment, and God clearly has not done either one. I abhor the teachings that try to prove that God would be the author of sin, make man sin, and then judge him for his sin: That is evil. What fellowship does light have with darkness or what concord hath Christ with Belial? God predestinated those He loved in Christ to be conformed to the image of Christ for the glory of Christ.

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